SUNDAY
January 12, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
30 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

Vol. 56 • No. 2

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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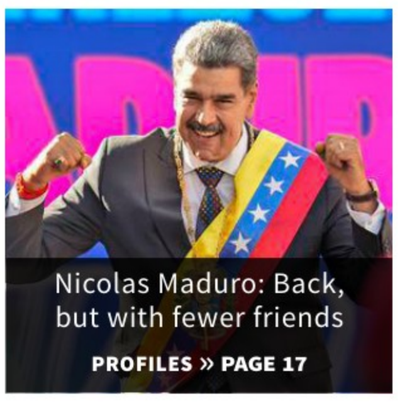
WEST BANK

'A cauldron that can explode any moment'

Israeli Indologist David Shulman predicts a third Palestinian 'uprising', suggests a confederation as path to peace with Israel

NEWS » PAGE 12



Nicolas Maduro: Back, but with fewer friends

PROFILES » PAGE 17

Why is Meta shutting down fact-checkers?

FAQ » PAGE 16

Shami returns for England T20Is

SPORT » PAGE 19

City has third slowest traffic in the world, finds study

TomTom Traffic Index

City	Country	Average travel time per 10 km	Change from 2023	Congestion level in %	Time lost per year at rush hours	Congestion world rank
Barranquilla	Colombia	36 min 6 s	-20 s	45	130 hours	16
Kolkata	India	34 min 33 s	+10 s	32	110 hours	169
Bengaluru	India	34 min 10 s	+50 s	38	117 hours	64
Pune	India	33 min 22 s	-1 min	34	108 hours	128
London	UK	33 min 17 s	+40 s	32	113 hours	150
Kyoto	Japan	33 min 16 s	+20 s	39	95 hours	60

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's infamous traffic meant the city was ranked third slowest in travel time, after Barranquilla in Colombia and Kolkata, in the global traffic index for 2024 by Tom Tom, a Dutch location technology firm. Bengaluru was sixth in 2023 and second in 2022.

According to the report, the average duration to traverse 10 km in Bengaluru was 30 minutes and 10 seconds, which is 50 seconds more than the time in 2023. In the congestion level index, the city is ranked 68, which is a 4% jump compared to 2023.

The data shows that the average travel time in Barranquilla was 36 minutes and six seconds, and in Kolkata it was 34 minutes 33 seconds. Barranquilla and Kolkata were ranked 16th and 169th respectively in the congestion level index.

The average speed in Bengaluru was 17.6 km/hour and this was 0.5 km/hour slower than in 2023. The average speed in Barranquilla was 21.6 km/hour and it was 14.5 km/hour in Kolkata. Owing to the slow-moving traffic, time lost during rush hours in 2024 in Bengaluru was 117 hours. The data for Bengaluru shows that October 5 (Saturday) was the worst day, with drivers taking 39 minutes and 21 seconds to travel 10 km. The congestion level on that day was 58%.

Morning rush hour

In the morning rush hour, the average duration of the travel was 38 minutes and 50 seconds, with an average speed of 15.5 km/hour.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

3 more bodies retrieved from flooded Assam mine

Multiple agencies keep up work to locate five other trapped miners; authorities continue to pump out water from nearby mines; the body of a worker from Nepal was recovered on Wednesday

Rahul Karmakar
UMRANGSO

Rescue workers retrieved the bodies of three workers from a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Dima Hasao district of Assam on Saturday afternoon, taking the death toll to four in the accident that took place on January 6. Five workers are still missing.

Officials at the site in Kalamati area, about 28 km from the industrial town of Umrangso, said an Army and National Disaster Response Force team recovered the bodies between 7.28 a.m. and 12.40 p.m.

The deceased have been identified as Lijen Magar (27) of Kalamati village close to the mine; Khushi Mohan Rai (57) from Fakiragarm in Kokrajhar district of western Assam; and Sarat Goyari (37) of Thailapara in Sonitpur district of north-central Assam. The body of Ganga Bahadur Shreshta (38), a resident of Udayapur district in Nepal, was recovered on Wednesday.

Long operation: A rescue team carries the body of a worker recovered from a mine in Dima Hasao, Assam on Saturday. PTI

Efforts by multiple agencies, including the Navy, to rescue the five miners still trapped in the 90-metre pit continued for the fifth day, Dima Hasao's District Commissioner Simanta Kumar Das said.

"Efforts to find the other miners will resume tomorrow [Sunday] morning but dewatering will continue throughout the night. The water level is down to about 15 metres with six pumps draining out 2.43 lakh litres per hour from the affected mine," Mr. Das told *The Hindu*.

Six more pumps are simultaneously draining out water from three abandoned mines nearby, all at a lower elevation than the ill-fated mine, while the heavy-duty pump brought by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) from Nagpur will need some more time to be set up. "Once the CIL pump goes into the mine, the six small pumps will have to be taken out. Our priority is on mobilisation to wrap up the operation as soon as possible," Mr. Das said.

Water level in the mine was almost constant at 30 metres for the first three days, but the technicians managed to bring it down by 7 metres on Friday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

NEARBY

Six researchers get Infosys Prize

BENGALURU
The Infosys Science Foundation celebrated outstanding achievements in research and innovation by awarding the Infosys Prize 2024 to six scholars during a felicitation ceremony here on Saturday. » Page 6

No respite from rising costs

BENGALURU
The 20 months of the Congress government in Karnataka has seen costs of several essentials increasing, with taxes and prices going up, providing no respite to common people. This has given an ammunition to the Opposition to target the government. » Page 8

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Showcasing martial traditions

In their element: Army jawans from the Gorkha Regiment performing 'Khukuri Dance' at the Know Your Army Mela, organised to mark the 77th Indian Army Day, in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR (MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6)

Intellectuals shouldn't form groups for individual interests: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has rued that intellectuals, who are supposed to be "fire extinguishers" when there is social disharmony, are often formed into groups to subserve individual interests. Speaking about the role of intellectuals in society during the inauguration of a conference here on Saturday, he said, "They [intellectuals] sign representations they may not have read. They think signing representation is a password for getting a position if a particular dispensation comes to power... You must be objective in making representations. You cannot create a group to subserve your interests with change of political alignments."

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 8

BJP trying to enrol fake voters in New Delhi: AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday accused the BJP of submitting fake voter registration applications on a "large scale" in a "deliberate" attempt to manipulate the Delhi Assembly election process. It said such practices raise doubts on the conduct of free and fair elections in the national capital.

The party said it had brought these fake applications to the notice of the Election Commission (EC).

Address of BJP leaders

At a press conference on Saturday, AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh alleged that several voter registration applications using the residential addresses of BJP leaders and addresses of small shops and basements across the New Delhi constituency were sent to the EC.

"An application has been filed to register 33 voters from the MP's official residence occupied by BJP candidate [New Delhi seat] Parvesh Verma, who was supposed to vacate his home after his term ended," Mr. Singh said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

HAL asks civil operators to ground Dhruv helicopters

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has advised civilian operators to ground the indigenous Dhruv advanced light helicopter Mark-III until the cause of a crash in Porbandar last week is identified.

The armed forces have already temporarily grounded all their 330 Dhruvs following the January 5 crash of an Indian Coast Guard helicopter during a training sortie that killed all three crew members onboard.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 13

Many trapped as waiting hall collapses at Kannauj station

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A partially built waiting hall collapsed at the Kannauj railway station in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, trapping several construction workers and railway staff under the debris. At least seven people suffered serious injuries and have been taken to the local government hospital.

The two-storey building was under construction at the station, which is being renovated under the Amrit Bharat scheme.

A ceiling slab of the waiting hall suddenly collapsed. It is believed that nearly 40 people were present on the site at the time, of which at least 25 have been rescued so far.

A rescue operation under way at the Kannauj railway station on Saturday. Seven persons suffer serious injuries. PTI

A rescue operation has been launched by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Government Railway Police (GRP), the Railway Protection Force (PRF), and the district administration.

"Our focus is to rescue the workers who are trapped. We are using all resources at our disposal for the rescue efforts." Kannauj District Magistrate Shubhrant Kumar Shukl said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

Leaving a mark: A Navy aircraft fires flares as it performs a fly-past.

Close call: Two naval skydivers collide mid-air before safely landing in the sea during a rehearsal of the operational demonstration.

In sync: Indian Navy personnel perform a continuity drill during the Eastern Naval Command's operational demonstration in Visakhapatnam.

Might over the sea

At a display in Visakhapatnam, the Indian Navy's Eastern Command demonstrates its operational excellence, resilience, and technological prowess

K. R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

The Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy held an operational demonstration in Visakhapatnam on January 4, showcasing a breathtaking display of maritime prowess and precision.

The grandeur unfolded with a submarine sail-past, followed by a gripping demonstration from the Marine Commando Force that featured the stealth and combat skills of the naval special forces. An oil rig demolition drill emphasised the Navy's readiness to tackle maritime emergencies, while a helicopter rescue operation illustrated their ability to execute daring lifesaving missions.

The skydiving team's performance stood out, especially after an incident during the final rehearsal two days ago, when two skydivers became entangled mid-air and had a choppy landing in the sea. They were promptly rescued and brought back to the shore. Undeterred by the mishap, the team executed a flawless landing during the main event, earning cheers from the audience. A composite fly-past by Chetak helicopters, Hawk jets, and Dornier planes highlighted the synchronised operations of the naval air fleet.

The evening concluded with a mesmerising beating retreat ceremony. Drone formations lit up the night sky, narrating tales of naval valour and technology. Fireworks and a laser show from the deck of a ship captivated the audience, culminating in firing of flares and illumination of naval vessels, casting a glow over the coast.

The demonstration was a testament to the Indian Navy's operational excellence, resilience, and technological prowess.

Visual treat: Naval officers with their families watch as fireworks go off during the demonstration.

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[2]Spatial Audio works with compatible content in supported apps. iPhone with True Depth camera is required to create personalised profile.
*The limited period offer price is computed on the MRP ₹12900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of AirPods 4, 1 N) further reduced by Instant Cashback of ₹1000.00 The Instant Cashback offer of ₹1000.00 is valid exclusively on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card and SBI Credit Card (Non-EMI and EMI) & on ICICI Bank Debit Card (EMI Only). The applicable Instant Cashback offer is valid for transactions made using Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals and applicable on select online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. No Cost EMI is applicable on ICICI Bank Credit Card, Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card, SBI Credit Card & ICICI Bank Debit Card EMI transactions on 6 months tenure only. Low-Cost EMI is also available on tenures greater than 6 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component applicable as per Bank's terms and conditions. EMI of ₹538.00 p.m. shown above is computed on 0 down Payment, No cost EMI of 24 months consumer loan scheme available from Bajaj Finance Ltd, HDFC Bank, HDB Financial Services, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and TVS Credit and is calculated on the MRP ₹ 12900.00 (incl. of all taxes) of AirPods 4. EMIs illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. The scheme is provided as No Cost EMI i.e. the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan for original tenure will be borne by Apple Authorised Distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to customer. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select participating Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to IndiaiStore.com. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2025 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE, CARING, 28, 168cm, active professional (US MS). Seeking driven, kind, compatible partner. Community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

HINDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 48 MBA, ACS Seeks Bride Groom CNB. Contact: 9445366062

DOCTOR

HINDU TAMIL BC Doctor 27/ 175 cm Fair, Clear Horoscope Seeks Tall Handsome PG Doctors / PG Engineers / Well settled with Good Habits from Simple family.Contact with Full view photograph, horoscope and biodata. Ph.7200365364

PG DOCTOR GROOM WANTED
Good looking Doctor girl MBBS, MD OG (pg ongoing) 24 yrs / 167 cm Star - Avittam Rasi - Makaram. Doctor Parents Nattar / Kamma Naidu Own Hospital seeking clinical PG Doctor from Affluent / well educated family
Contact : 6380069015
9790288125
WHATSAPP msg: 9976532632

HINDU, ADI DRAVIDA, 25yrs/156cms, Fair, M.B.B.S settled in Chennai seeks Doctor Groom. Whatsup: 94442 18149

ENGLISH

Vadakalai, Kousigam, Poordam (4), May 1994 B.Com.,A.C.A.,C.S., Girl seeks Qualified Grooms only Iyengar & Iyer Contact : 9940598204

KANNADA

MUSLIM VERY fair / Beautiful girl 2003 born / High Class Family of Bangalore / is looking for a suitable Match 9743700029

KANNADA DEVANGA, 26 yrs, MBA, works at Hyderabad, not particular about Horoscope. Looking for a like minded match from the same community. Contact Number: 7259528771.

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA GIRL from elite family, 27/158 cm, Pooyam, MBA, Operations Analyst in MNC - 9447000579, 9074673232.

DELHI BASED Nair Girl 29 /145cm, Pooram 1.5 dosham pursuing PhD in Edinburgh UK Seek alliance pref from same community pref Palakkad / Trichur and nearby districts. Contact: 9818364188.

Ezhuthachan Girl 24 years Engg. Graduate 172 cms Thrikketta. Parents seek Alliance from Employed Boys/Parents. Contact 9444859694

MALAYALAM VISWAKARMA Bride, 27/150, B.E., Civil., settled in Madurai, Upper Middle Class, Good proposals from Kollam or Thiruvananthapuram based family who settled in Madurai or Nearby District. Not Bureau. Ct: 7667765588

NRI

Hindu Telugu Never married 44/168 MS USA working seeking 45-47 Never married working in USA CNB 9866274192

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM, 30/159, AVP in MNC at Hyderabad, well settled, 24L PA seeks suitable Groom in Hyderabad/ Bengaluru. Ct.9080501299

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, Catholic 31 yrs, HR Professional– MNC , with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 35 yrs, premier Institute or IT professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits. WhatsAp 9443124608

CHRISTIAN, RC, 31 Yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Kanyakumari, Income 10 Lakhs. Ct 8138901281.

RC CHRISTIAN Vellalar, 31/176 CM, B. Tech MBA. PWC Bangalore 35LPA. Seeks God fearing, well Educated working Professional Contact: 8870520107 / 9952719542

CHRISTIAN, CASTE no bar, 34 Yrs, MCA, Engineer, Income 50 Lakhs. Ct 8138901097

TAMIL

CATHOLIC VELLALAR Girl 32 /171 MBBS MPH student visa Texas, USA Seeks professional from USA Ct:9150153743

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, Chennai, seeks christian groom, CT–9500188067

GROOM REQD Christian,27yrs, MBA (UK),Well Educated Family,CNB, Need Abroad Profiles 9710093999/ 9710091999

RC NADAR Tamil, 31/153, Chithirai, M.E., Spiritual, Vegetarian, wants to be a home maker seeks Govt. Employed Groom. Ct: 9442247012

GOD FEARING Christian CSI Nadar rich family invites Proposal for their daughter fair, beautiful, well educated employed in foreign Company in Chennai, drawing good Salary and also having good monthly rental Income from the share of her Commercial Building in Chennai. Groom should well educated from rich family, age 32 to 36. Parents Contact 9840129090.

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 34 Yrs, Remarriage, MS, Doctor , Rich and affluent family. Ct 8138900537

CHRISTIAN, RC, 30 Yrs, B.E, Manager at London, Income 1 Crore. Ct 8138900530

Hindu SC/Fair/ 29 Yrs/ 152 M Law well settled/ seeks Groom/ CNB/ Chennai Contact: 6379521614.

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIAR, HASTHAM, 39yrs/ 162cm, B.E, M.B.A., working as V.P.Royal Bank, Canada. Seeks suitable qualified Groom in India/Abroad. Ct: 9843092595.

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar 25yrs B.Tech Own Schools & Colleges Elite family in Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

DOCTOR MD 37y 165cm fair athletic divorced seeks well settled groom from Chennai. Call : 9445018192

HINDU, VEERA saivam, 34 Yrs, B.E, Engineer at Coimbatore, Income 1 Crore. Ct 8138900553.

MUDALIAR, 24/5.3" M.sc Neuro Lecturer Chennai seeks suitable Bride Groom Ct : 98400 37406 / 99404 20003

SC/ST Community Girl (Hindu) 29/155 cm B.Tech (Chemical Engg) seeks groom from State Govt / Central Govt / Pvt organisation. Contact: 99692 28297 / 98196 30507

DOCTOR MD (Pathology) DCH 39yrs Hindu BC, Divorcee without child, working in a private hospital, seeks well settled, compatible, decent & affectionate Groom CNB Ct: 9176289180

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR Elite Family 33/ 165 Mirugasim Raghu in Lagnam, PG in HR (Asst. Manager,MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom, Age Upto 38yrs. 9176780777.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 25yrs MBBS, MS Own Transports& Resorts business family 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 26 Yrs, B.Arch, Architect at Chennai, Income 10 Lakhs. Ct 7356483111

HINDU, PILLAI, 25 Yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Income 12 Lakhs. Ct 8138900557

HINDU SC.AD Magam girl 29/157cm MCA. TL @ Infosys 12LPA. Seeking Same caste groom from Chennai. 9840365908

MUDALIAR 32 DM (Cardiology) Seeks PG Doctors / Engineers/CAs /Govt Officers from Any Mudaliar Community Ct:9445151998

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, 162cm,Good Looking well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU NADAR, 30 yrs, M.Arch, MS (US) Elite Business Family in Chennai 9841329471 / 9380791999

✔ **HINDU VANNIYAKULA Kshatriya girl Chennai 27 yrs smart modern outlook professionally qualified post graduation from UK upper middle class family seeks professionally qualified well placed like minded grooms from good family background from same or similar castes WhatsApp 9840143838**

TAMIL

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 9498313625

HINDU ARUNTHATHIAR Jana Kilai 36 Yrs Asst. Professor 5 Lakhs PA 6379366910, 9524829734.

HINDU, SC/AD, 38/163, Fair, B. Tech(CSE), SWP, Moolam–Dhanusu, Never married, Chennai, seeks Professionally Qualified, Never married groom below 42 yrs, From India/Abroad, Caste–No–Bar, Ct:8754566571

GROOM WANTED Sujitha Mudaliar Caste No Bar 35 years BE MS Working in Boston. Ph: 9444141955

MUDALIAR 25/160 Fair Beautiful, BE, SWE, infosys, 900000.PA, Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR: 25/V.FAIR, MBA, doing Father Business, Chennai, Elite family – Seeks groom Business / Industrialist – 8925019776

MUDALIAR (CNB): 24/ V. Fair, B.Tech ,MS (USA),MNC, Eng, USA, 500000PM, Seeks groom only Abroad– 9962530015

BEAUTIFUL, WARM, 26, 160cm, well–educated, polished, UK–raised professional from affluent Nadar family of doctors. Seeks active, driven, compatible partner. Call/WA 9345634365

HINDU,SCAD ,29 years,MDS Tamil girl, Bangalore Seeks suitable bridegroom for early Marriage. Father is Former Director GOI. Contact:70911 91206

HINDU PILLAI PG in Medical, MS (O& G), Age 28,158 cm, Seeks Suitable Groom from same Caste. Ct 9600098127

HINDU, CASTE no bar, 25 yrs, LLM, Legal Advisor at Chennai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900487

IYENGAR THENKALAI Srivatsam Magam 1994 BE MS employed in Sweden seeks qualified Tamil groom employed in Europe/India Whatsapp 9008373183

HINDU, SC, 30 yrs, Divorced, BE , Business at Chennai, Income 20 Lakhs. Ct 8138901181.

SC AD 37 BE Software Engineer, TCS 1.50L/Month Chennai. seeks suitable Groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 99521 47216

Mudaliyar, 27/154cm Mirugasirisa B.Com, MBA, Fair, Homely Girl, High Middle Class seeks suitable Groom Ct: 94445 47499 / 94449 35026

Tamil Hindu Nadar 34/158, Pooradam Dhanusu, IAS- Maharastra, Divorcee, no issue preferred Hindu Groom Caste No Bar. Ct: 9445282905 / 9445704985

Muslim Girl 22/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai Well to do Fmly in Chennai. Ph: 94455 56810.

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu 24yrs MBA Own Transports, Elite business family in Chennai 9710093999/ 9710091999

BALIJA NAIDU 30yrs/ 153cm (Star–Rohini) Working in Pvt Company. Seeks Suitable Groom @ Chennai 9884846447

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 25 yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Family in Chennai Contact: .9710093999 / 9710091999

NAIDU 29/154/FAIR/CA/MNC Veg God Fear Seeks Educated PG Groom from well settled Decent Family. 9444361010

NAIDU 25/165 Fair Beautiful, MBBS, MS–Doing, 700000.PA, Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GROOM WANTED Rich Kamma Naidu, 25yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Business Family Contact:9710093999 / 9710091999

Telugu 34yrs Girl B.E, M.S, Divorced Working in USA. seeks BrideGroom must work in USA. Caste No Bar. Cont: 90922 80967

URDU

SUNNI/ URDU/ CHENNAI girl, ACCA (financial consultant) 33/175 employed in Bangalore seeks Qualified Professionals employed in Bangalore – 9445714602

SUNNI URDU 26, 163cm, Engg, Hijabi, Canadian citizen seeks professional religious groom from Canada/USA/UK, Whatsapp +1 403 830 8019.

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TAMIL

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Central govt.'s cashless treatment scheme for accident victims lauded

Bengaluru saw 4,784 accidents in 2024 with 893 fatalities and 4,052 injuries, a 3.9% decline from the previous year; Karnataka has reported 1,42,770 accidents since the 2021 launch of IRAD

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The cashless treatment initiative is designed to ensure timely medical care for accident victims, especially during the crucial golden hour. FILE PHOTO

Cab drivers and commuters in Karnataka have expressed support for the Central government's new cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims, which was announced by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on January 7. The scheme covers treatment costs up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days following an accident, provided a police report is filed within 24 hours.

Mr. Gadkari had said: "The scheme will be applicable to all accidents caused by the use of motor vehicles on any category of road."

The initiative is designed to ensure timely medical care for accident victims, especially during the crucial golden hour.

The National Health Authority (NHA) will implement the programme in collaboration with police, hospitals, and the State Health Agency. An IT platform combining the functionalities of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' e-Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) application and the Transaction Management System of the NHA will facilitate the scheme.

Manjunath S., a cab driver from Banaswadi in Bengaluru, said, "This scheme is a big relief for us. As drivers, we are constantly on the road, and more exposed to accidents. Knowing that medical costs will be covered gives us some peace of mind."

However, another driver, Ramesh P.M. from Jalahalli, noted that while the initiative is commendable, the ₹1.5 lakh treatment cap is insufficient given the high cost of medical care today. "Road accident victims often suffer severe injuries, and the covered amount should be increased to reflect actual expenses. The idea is good, but the government must ensure that hospitals and authorities are efficient. Delays in filing police reports or accessing funds could undermine the scheme's purpose," he said.

Commuters have also lauded the scheme.

Shweta Rao, a frequent traveller between Bengaluru and Hassan, said, "Many lives are lost due to delay in getting medical help after accidents. This initiative can save lives if executed well. This initiative should be implemented properly so that everyone will be benefiting from the initiative."

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) president Radhakrishna Holla called the scheme a 'game-changer' for the transport sector. "Our drivers face immense risks every day, especially on highways. The cashless treatment programme is a step towards protecting their lives. We hope the government implements measures to educate drivers and commuters about the process, ensuring the scheme is easily accessible during emergency situations."

The programme builds on a pilot launched in Chandigarh earlier this year, aimed at creating an ecosystem for providing timely care to accident victims. The pilot project was later expanded to Assam, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Puducherry.

The Bengaluru City Police recorded a total of 4,784 road accident cases in 2024, resulting in 893 fatalities and 4,052 injuries. According to statistics released by the traffic police, this marks a 3.9% decline in the number of accidents compared to the previous year.

Data provided by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reveals that Karnataka has reported 1,42,770 road accidents since the implementation of the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) system in 2021, up until December 9, 2024.

Mother of two found dead a day after 25-year-old male friend's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old mother of two allegedly died by suicide over an extramarital affair in Sampigehalli police station limits on Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Dilshad, a native of Vijayapura, who married Krishna, a cab driver, six years ago. The couple were living in Srirampura extension in Sampigehalli police station limits along with their two minor children.

According to the police, Dilshad was active on social media and got in touch with a man from Hennur, identified as Johnson. The duo reportedly entered into a relationship.

Johnson, 25, a labourer by profession, was concerned about the acceptance of their relationship and allegedly ended his life on Friday, said the police.

Dilshad who came to know about this on Saturday morning allegedly ended her life at her house. Based on a complaint filed by her mother, the police have taken up a case of unnatural death for further investigation.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Man booked for cheating farmer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a cheating case against a person who, posing as a close confidant of the Forest Minister, cheated a farmer promising jobs for his children in the Forest Department.

The accused, identified as Veeresh K.P., got introduced to P.H. Adavi, a resident of Rajajinagar, and promised to get the job of forest watcher for his children in December 2023.

The accused asked Adavi to come to the Vikasa Soudha to discuss about the jobs.

Adavi agreed and paid a total of ₹6 lakh. After receiving the amount, Veeresh asked him to apply for the post and assured him of taking care of the rest.

The complainant followed the instructions and found that he did not get the job.

He tried to contact Veeresh but he avoided him. After waiting for over one year, Adavi approached the police and filed a complaint.

Gang held for hunting wild boars and deer in and around Ramanagara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Along with the two boars and the two deer, the officials seized two guns, a machete, and knives. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials of the Forest mobile squad nabbed a gang of four and seized two wild boars and two deer which they were taking in an SUV after a chase on the outskirts of Ramanagara district on Friday.

Based on a tip-off, a team led by Deputy Conservator of Forest Sunitha Bai rushed to the area where the accused were moving suspiciously and tried to intercept the SUV. Sensing trouble, the accused tried to escape but were chased and caught near Chikkakuntanahalli in Ramanagara. The accused have been identified as Srinivasa, 46, Hanumantharaju, 44, and Muniraju, 38, and their associate who accompanied them to get a share of the meat.

Along with the two boars and the two deer, the officials seized two guns, including an air gun, a machete and knives. The accused, according to the officials, confessed to operating in the area for the last year and to have killed over 20 wild animals.

The accused said that they illegally hunted for personal consumption of meat and distributing it to relatives and friends, but considering the amount of animals, the official suspect that it could also be for commercial purposes.

The officials have seized the weapons and approached the local police concerned to ascertain the purpose of having a licenced weapon with a recommendation to cancel it.

The officials have booked the accused under the Forest Act and remanded them in judicial custody while investigation is on to ascertain their previous hunting activities.

Retired Air Force man cheated of pension savings in online fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Posing as bank officials, cyber fraudsters have cheated a 74-year-old retired Air Force man of his pension savings of ₹6.2 lakh.

Based on a complaint by the victim, the East Division police have registered a case against the accused charging them under the IT Act and Section 318 (cheating) under the BNS Act recently.

The victim, a resident of Kammanahalli, in his complaint, said that on January 6 he received a call and a WhatsApp message from a person claiming to be the manager of the bank, where his pension was being deposited.

APK file shared

The accused convinced the victim that he needed to install a customer support app in order to complete an "annual identification" required to be done annually for people under the pension scheme.

The accused shared an APK file on WhatsApp and asked him to install it. Then they realised that his wife was a joint account holder and added her on a conference call and shared the same APK file asking her to follow the instructions.

After following the instructions, the accused enabled auto-forwarding of all calls and SMSes to their number and all OTPs went to their number. Using this, they started withdrawing money from his pension account and also from his wife's personal account, the victim said in the complaint.

The total amount withdrawn was around ₹6,22,759. Realising his mistake, he disconnected the call and switched off his wife's phone.

The whole incident happened between 11.35 a.m. and 1 p.m. He later approached the police with a list of phone numbers he had received from the scammers seeking legal action.

The city police have launched an awareness campaign requesting people not to entertain any unknown calls from persons claiming to be police and bank officials seeking personal information.

The police have also asked people not to click on any APK files they receive which would enable the scammer to access their personal information.

FIR against man who was 'assisting' his mother at office

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after Lokayukta officials caught 35-year-old Naveen K. red-handed working on behalf of his mother at the BBMP office in Jayanagar during a surprise visit, the Siddapura police on Friday registered an FIR against the son and the mother Kavitha, a second division assistant.

The police have also booked Sujatha, Assistant Revenue Officer, charging the trio under Sections 205 (wearing a garb or carrying a token as public servant), 316 (criminal breach of trust), 318 (cheating), 319 (impersonation), and 229 (false evidence) of the BNS for further investigation.

The accused who was taken into custody for questioning told the police that he was working to assist his mother who is slow in handling computers. The accused used her official login ID and password to work on property registration and other official work illegally. Besides, Sujatha hired a person by paying ₹10,000 a month to work at the office without any authority, said the police.

Taking a strong exception to such work culture, the Lokayukta summoned the BBMP Commissioner and other officials seeking an explanation.

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HUBDATA IIIT HYDERABAD
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NIMHANS, in collaboration with IIIT-Hyderabad and funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, invites YOU to partici pate in our research assessing the effectiveness of wearable devices for sleep monitoring.
Why Does Sleep Matter?
Good sleep is essential for memory consolidation & brain restoration. Yet, 70–80% of stroke patients suffer from undiagnosed sleep disorders due to the lack of reliable and patient-friendly monitoring tools. This study evaluates wearable devices to address this gap, and we need healthy volunteers to be part of the comparator group!
Who Can Participate?
• Age: 30–65 years
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T.N. police arrest rowdy sheeter from Hosur court complex

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Hosur police in Tamil Nadu arrested 10 persons under the Arms (Amendment) Act 2019, including private gunmen, a rowdy sheeter, and his associates, for allegedly entering the Hosur court complex with firearms on Thursday. The accused were remanded in judicial custody.

The rowdy sheeter, identified as Revanna who hails from Sulikunte near Sarjapur Road in Bengaluru, had arrived at the court with private gunmen to mark his attendance as per bail conditions. The gunmen were hired from a private security agency operating out of Karnataka. While three men were carrying guns licensed by the Karnataka government, two others owned firearms with an all-India licence.

The private gunmen were identified as Yaya from Ballari; Gave Mohan from Maharashtra; Krishna Kutti from Madikeri; Mahesha from Mandya, and Mahantesh from Mandya. Yaya is a retired CRPF personnel and Gave Mohan is a retired Army personnel. The police have also seized the guns.

The four associates of Revanna who were booked have been identified as Naveen Kumar, Puneeth, Shivanna, and Praveen Kumar.

Akshay Anil Wakhare, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hosur in Krishnagiri district, told *The Hindu* that Revanna, who has rowdy sheets in three police stations in Bengaluru, turned up with gunmen inside the court complex at Hosur. He had neither informed the court nor the local police that he would be accompanied by the gunmen.

Of the five gunmen, three had licences only for Karnataka and in that case, one has to secure permission from the other State to carry the weapon. The protocol also dictates that the other two gunmen who can carry guns across India must inform the local court.

Mr. Wakhare said Revanna had secured bail in a murder case and according to the bail condition, he had to regularly mark his attendance in the court. He is accused of murdering a man identified as Revanth who also hails from Sulikunte. After allegedly killing Revanth, the body was dumped in Hosur.

Demand for sugarcane soars amid festival preparations in city

While it is an essential part of the Makar Sankranti celebrations, its price, which is increasing year-on-year, makes it not so sweet for customers

Akriti Duggal
BENGALURU

Sugarcane that arrived in the city from the surrounding districts ahead of Makar Sankranti. K. MURALI KUMAR

As Makar Sankranti approaches, sugarcane is taking centre stage in markets across Bengaluru.

While it is an essential part of the festival celebrations, its price which is increasing year-on-year makes it not so sweet for customers.

In K.R. Puram, Padma, a vendor, reveals her stall sells nearly 1,000 sugarcane pieces over the peak days of January 13 and 14, drawing between 1,000 and 1,500 customers daily. She sells the sugarcane at ₹100 per piece, sourcing them from Mallasandra at ₹55 per piece. "These are the busiest days of the year for us," Ms. Padma remarked.

As the demand for sugarcane goes up only specifically during the harvest festival, which falls on January 14 this year, vendors look to make the most of it by increasing their profit margin. At Malleswaram market, Ram Chandra, a vendor from Tamil Nadu, shares that his stall sees nearly 2,000 customers daily during the Sankranti period.

The price for a full-sized sugarcane stem ranges between ₹150 and ₹200 at his stall, while smaller pieces are sold at ₹30.

"For puja, most people buy two stems of sugarcane," he explained. These sugarcanes, grown in Tamil Nadu, are sourced from Mandya's wholesale market, where full-sized stems cost between ₹40 and ₹50 each.

When asked about the higher price at which he sells on retail, he said: "It (raised prices) helps cover my travel costs as I have to source it from Mandya. The festive demand ensures good business for me as sugarcane is a staple offering during Sankranti."

Nearby, another vendor, Laxmi, who pays ₹700 for 10 full-sized stems at K.R. Market, was selling it for ₹100 a stem and ₹30 a piece for smaller pieces. While she only gets around 100 customers a day, she reported that her profits figured at around ₹1,000 a day.

As sugarcane is used both as an offering to god and also as a part of the 'ellu bella' (sesame and jaggery mixture) traded during Sankranti, customers continue to buy them irrespective of its prices.

"It is a part of our culture and we only buy it once a year. So we do not mind the price. But we do not buy a lot as everyone also brings a piece with them and we can use the same pieces for ellu bella exchange," explained Shruthi Krishna, a resident of Padmanabhanagar.

Will there be takers for voluntary property tax revision?

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

With the second amendment to the BBMP Act, 2024, now owners who had under-assessed properties and were paying less tax can voluntarily revise the tax upwards. Earlier, tax revision was being carried out by the civic body.

A senior BBMP official said this is an opportunity for the property owners falling under this category to act voluntarily. They will have to pay 9% annual interest and penalty for the dues after revision. A provision was added to Section 144 of the BBMP Act to empower citizens to do this exercise.

Now, owners who had under-assessed properties and were paying less tax can voluntarily revise the tax. FILE PHOTO

The BBMP official further said the key aim of this change was to provide a platform for citizens to do their part. "This is a carrot given by the BBMP to revise the under-assessed properties. If the revision is not done even after this, the BBMP will send a notice and when the property owner approaches the Revenue Department, the civic body will do revision at its convenience. The delay in revision by the BBMP will only increase the interest," said the official.

However, there are questions being raised about the effectiveness of this provision after the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme also did not get the desired results. Of the 3.95 lakh defaulters, only 50% used the scheme.

On Friday, the OTS scheme that began last February and ended on November 30 was also formalised through legislation. The BBMP now hopes that the new upward provision may attract people to come out with the revised tax on their own instead of waiting for the BBMP. A resident of R.R. Nagar, who failed to use the OTS, said he is thinking of utilising the new provision of the BBMP to avoid "harassment" in the future.

Daksh and Open Day 2025 begins at CHRIST

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Daksh and Open Day 2025, hosted by the University Student Council at CHRIST (deemed-to-be university), began on Saturday, attracting over 8,000 students, parents, and educators. The two-day event aims to promote academic exploration and career guidance, highlighting the uUniversity's vibrant culture, cutting-edge infrastructure, and diverse academic offerings.

Rev. Viju P. Devassey, Pro Vice-Chancellor of CHRIST, inaugurating the event in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With over 120 interactive stalls representing CHRIST campuses across Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, and Pune-Lavasa, the event provided valuable insights into undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programmes. Participants also benefited from personalised career counselling sessions designed to guide their educational and career choices.

Rev. Viju P. Devassey, Pro Vice-Chancellor of CHRIST, inaugurated the event and emphasised the importance of an education that extends beyond the classroom, fostering innovation and social responsibility.

Joshil Raj, CEO of the Centre for Excellence in Design, IISc, Bengaluru, was the chief guest.

The event also featured the Trailblaze Competitions, which allowed school students to showcase their creativity and talent.

18 workers fall sick after inhaling chlorine at a factory in UK dist.

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Eighteen workers fell sick following a chlorine leak in a factory at Binaga in Karwar taluk of Uttara Kannada district on Saturday.

The incident occurred at the caustic soda production unit of Grasim Industries. According to company officials, the leak occurred in the production unit because of a technical problem. The workers complained of burning eyes and breathlessness and they were immediately shifted out of the factory and hospitalised, they said.

According to them out of the 18 workers, hailing mostly from other States, four were treated at the health centre on the factory premises and 14 were taken to Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital. In-charge health officer, Dr. Ramesh Rao, told presspersons that the workers fell sick after inhaling chlorine. All the patients were stable, according to doctors.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, H.S. Vishwanatha S/o H.S. Thirukappa aged about 37 years R/@ H.No.1195, 4th Ward, L.B. Extension, Kottur Town, Kottur Taluk, Vijayanagar District do hereby solemnly state that, in accordance with The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act my natural parents on 26.12.1993 had given me in adoption to H.S. Thirukappa and Gangamma. My adopted parents have got the adoption Process registered at Haveri Sub-Registrar Office and have obtained Adoption Certificate bearing no.HVR-4-00107-2024-25 dated 02.01.2025. I further state that, before my adoption I was known as **VISHWANATHA B.V.** But after my adoption by H.S. Thirukappa and Gangamma I have changed my name as **H.S. VISHWANATHA S/o H.S. THIRUKAPPA** and I will continue this name for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 10.01.2025 sworn to Notary K. Muganna.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज

शुद्धि–पत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा संख्या **RDSpl/SAHIBGANJ/15/2024-25,** जिसका P.R. No. 343556 (Rural Development) (24-25) है, की तिथियों को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नवत् संशोधित की जाती है :–

क्र0		पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
01	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :	दिनांक 07.01.2025	दिनांक 09.01.2025
02	ई0–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :	दिनांक 16.01.2025 को 5.00 PM बजे तक।	दिनांक 27.01.2025 को 5.00 PM बजे तक।
04	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :	दिनांक 18.01.2025 को 2.00 PM बजे तक।	दिनांक 29.01.2025 को 2.00 PM बजे तक।

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

PR 344114 Rural Development(24-25).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,साहेबगंज

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560100
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.konappanaagrahara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸ:ಕೋ:ತಾಂ:ಶಾ:23:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–01–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT34031 ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ (ಕೆಟಗರಿ–1)	3.20
2	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT18244 ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ (ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗ)	29.96
3	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT340302 ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ (ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ)	29.70
4	DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT34032 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ)	15.00
5	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33291 (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ)	29.70

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24.01.2025** ಸಮಯ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.01.2025** ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೊನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕೊನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ

DIPR/CP/SPAN/4304/2024-25

BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
Tiruchirappalli – 620 024, INDIA
Ref. No.44333/P7/2024 Date : 09.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders are invited for Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope repair / upgradation under the **DST-SUPREME** program. Detailed tender documents with specifications, terms and conditions, etc, can be downloaded from the website **www.bdu.ac.in** & **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The Last date for receipt of the tender in this office is **3.00 P.M.** on **24.01.2025**

DIPR/ 119 / TENDER /2025 **REGISTRAR (i/c)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/44/2025
Dated : 06-01-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Conducting Final Location Survey between Hassan - Mangaluru with a new route length of 247 km and Castlerock - Kulem new double line (72 Km). **(Tender Ref. No.: FLS-HAS-MAQ-CLR-QLM)**	Rs. 21,36,08,835/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 29-01-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/696/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
ई–निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्र सं. WB-74-W-O/Works/NIT/X दिनांक: 10/01/2025 मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रो में निविदा निम्न कार्यो के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2024–25 : 150 कार्य का नाम व स्थान :** Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators on curves in the Jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/East. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये :** 5,27,44,278.96 **बयाने की राशि रूपये :** 4,13,700.00 **निविदा सूचना संख्या 150 of 24–25** निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि **31/01/2025 को 15.00 बजे** तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर **ई–निविदा** देखी व भरी जा सकती है – **www.ireps.gov.in** 40-CR/25

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, दुमका
(rdsddumka1@gmail.com)
अतिअल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या– **RDSD/DMK/PLASH MART/41/2024-25**

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

क्रम संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	दुमका जिला में पलाश मार्ट का निर्माण कार्य।	4,99,96,700	10,00,000	10,000.00	12 माह

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 17.01.2025
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 17.01.2025 से दिनांक 24.01.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबावदेही आपकी होगी।
5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :– e-Procurement Cell, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमंडल दुमका।
6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 27.01.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,दुमका।
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ठ का दुरभाश संख्या :– 7091279444
9. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,दुमका।

PR 344076 Rural Work Department(24-25)D

INNOVATE KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA K-tech

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No.: ITBTST/2024-25/SE0012/CALL-3

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt intends **to Select an Event Curation and Management Agency (ECMA) for Organizing - GAFX. GAFX is an annual flagship event of** Department of E, IT & Bt **which promotes Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics - extended reality Sector in Karnataka.** n this regard, KITS invites proposals from the qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

The interested agencies are required to download the electronic copy of the Request for Proposals and upload the proposal (in PDF format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in through the bidder's Digital Signature Centre (DSC).

Any notices/information related to this Request for Proposals in the future shall be available on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only.

The application period starts on **January 12, 2025** and ends on **January 18, 2025, at 4:00 P.M.** Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road,
Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram,Bengaluru – 560020
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/4305/AKAR/2024-25

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GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS hereby informed to the depositors that the TEAK TREE schemes promoted by us in the year 1992 was closed in year 1998 itself and money were refunded to the depositors. Those who have not received their deposit may kindly contact us in the below mentioned address with appropriate documents to get back their deposit along with due interest within 30 days of this notice. H.V.SHAH, Director, Bliss Plantations & Hill Resorts Pvt. Ltd.(Defunct) (N) 102, Armenian St, Chennai –1. E.mail: blissplantationsresorts@gmail.com / Contact: 044–25227305

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
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Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Six researchers under 40 honoured with Infosys Prize 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) celebrated outstanding achievements in research and innovation by awarding the Infosys Prize 2024 to six scholars during a felicitation ceremony here on Saturday.

In its 16th year, the eligibility criteria were revised to honour researchers under 40, emphasising early recognition for exceptional talent.

The winners were felicitated for their work across six disciplines: economics; engineering and computer science; humanities and social sciences; life sciences; mathematical sciences, and physical sciences.

The Infosys Prize 2024 winners before the award ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The 2024 prize for economics was awarded to Arun Chandrasekhar of Stanford University for his work on social and economic networks. His research, which includes data mapping from Karnataka villages, offers insights into network roles in economic development and policymaking.

The prize for engineering and computer science went to Shyam Gollakota of the University of Washington for innovations such as smartphone-based healthcare tools and battery-free computing, addressing critical societal needs.

Mahmood Kooria of the University of Edinburgh received the prize for humanities and social sciences for his work on maritime Islam, particularly its economic and cultural impact along the Indian Ocean littoral.

The prize for life sciences was awarded to Siddhesh Kamat of IISER, Pune, for his research on bioactive lipids, revealing their significance in cellular functions and diseases.

Neena Gupta from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, was recognised for resolving the Zariski cancellation problem, a longstanding challenge in algebraic geometry.

Finally, Vedika Khemani of Stanford University was awarded for her work on time-crystals, with potential implications for quantum computing.

The chief guest for the ceremony was Peter Sarnak, known for his work on number theory, from Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study, who conferred the awards. Each winner received a gold medal, a citation, and a purse of $100,000.

Commending the laureates, Professor Sarnak said: "Recognising the achievements of these young scholars, whose brilliant research has advanced and shaped their fields, is an inspiration to students both in India and globally. The annual recognition of such world-leading scholars by the Infosys Science Foundation is a testament to the immense talent and impact of Indian and global researchers."

The event was attended by other scientists, academicians, business leaders, young researchers, and students. Trustees of the Infosys Science Foundation, including Kris Gopalakrishnan (president, board of trustees), Narayana Murthy, and Nandan Nilekani, were present to celebrate the laureates' achievements. A day before the winners were felicitated, the foundation hosted the fourth edition of the Infosys Prize Winners' Symposium.

THE HINDU
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Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 12		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:11
RISE	16:40	SET 05:08
MONDAY, JAN. 13		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:11
RISE	17:42	SET 06:08
TUESDAY, JAN. 14		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:12
RISE	18:42	SET 07:04

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	28	17
Bengaluru	25	18

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Dry weather to prevail.

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Celebrating the Army

People from all walks of life and of all ages gathered in large numbers in Bengaluru to take part in the Know Your Army Mela 2025 organised to commemorate the 77th Army Day. K. MURALI KUMAR

From Page One

'City has third slowest traffic in the world'

The evening rush in 2024 saw an average travel time of 41 minutes and 59 seconds. The congestion level in the morning rush was 55% and it was 68% in the evening.

Ashish Verma from the Indian Institute of Science said that though the TomTom Traffic Index is a widely recognised tool for analysing urban traffic congestion, covering 387 cities across 55 countries, its reliance on GPS-equipped vehicles limits its scope and depth, failing to account for factors like travel mode variations, seasonal changes, and urban land use. "While the average travel time serves as a key metric, this narrow focus overlooks critical aspects such as accessibility, public transport quality, and urban planning policies, including parking allocation and high-occupancy vehicle lanes," he said.

"The index also applies European standards universally, ignoring spatial and cultural differences, which can lead to biased results and misguided policies. Expanding the index to include additional metrics like emission levels, fuel consumption, and road network intensity could provide a more comprehensive view of transportation systems, reflecting efficiency and environmental impact," he added.

झारखंड सरकार, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गुमला

अल्पकालीन ई- पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या:- 08/R1/2024-25/RWD/W/EE/GUMLA दिनांक :– 10.01.2025

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि।	टेंण्डर कॉल सं0
			अंक में (लाखे)	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/W/EE/ GUMLA/ 07/ 2024-25	भेलवाडीह से सान्याकोना, कोजांग, खुटियारी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–5.000 कि0मी0)	503.030	पॉच करोड़ तीन लाख तीन हजार रू0 मात्र।	18 माह	द्वितीय।

2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 13.01.2025
3 ई– निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:–20.01.2025 अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:– 21.01.2025 अपराहन 05.30 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला, विकास भवन, गुमला के बगल में, पिन–835207
6 ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06524–465040 ।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला

PR 344098 Rural Work Department (24-25)_D

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mr.V.Murali S/o.R.Venkataramanan, Aged about 51 years, residing at Flat No.S-201, Sreevalsam, #340 B Block, Near Sansar Super Market, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli Marathahalli Bengaluru-560037, has LOST THE ORIGINAL ALLOTMENT LETTER BEARING NO.COM/DS-2/BTM.4/1/1146/A/2000-01 DATED 16.09.2000 ISSUED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, BDA, BANGALORE IN RESPECT OF SITE NO.1146/A, IN THE LAYOUT FORMED BY THE BDA AT 4TH STAGE, 1ST BLOCK, BTM LAYOUT, BANGALORE IN FAVOUR OF Mrs.V.GNANAMANI ANANDHAN, LOST AT MARATHAHALLI BUS STAND ON 15.07.2024 BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 11.01.2025 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1425109/2025, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 Land line: 080-48520073

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client namely, **MR. U. RAMACHANDRA Also known as UMAPATHY RAMACHANDRA,** Aged about 45 years, S/o Venkataramanappa Umapathy, Residing at, No. 10, Behind Taluk Office, Mutton Stall Road, Anekal Town, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District - 562 106., is the absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the immovable property bearing Old No. 1/1, Site No. 3/2-1, 10th Main Road, 'B' Khatha Sl No. A-15-18493, V-1, P-36, Sampangiramanagara, Ward No. 110, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 16.1 feets and north to South: 18.0 feet, in all measuring 289.8 Square feets along with 250 sq. ft of Ground, 250 sq. ft of First, 250 sq. ft of Second, 250 sq. ft of Third Floor building constructed thereon. The above said property purchased by my client under registered sale deed dated. 27.12.2023 vide registered document No. GNR-1-07597/2023-24 registered Before Sub Registrar Gandhinagara (Ganganagara) registered on 03.01.2024, and my client became absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the same. The katha and BBMP records are also transferred and stands in my client's name. Recently 1 month back my client has lost the page No. 14 of the original registered sale deed dated. 27.12.2023. After that, inspite of his best efforts and though search, he could not trace out the same. And in this regard on **10.01.2024** my client lodged police complaint vide **GSC NO.P01330250600059** if anybody finds the above said original document it is requested to hand over the same to my client or to my below mentioned address.

MALLIKARJUNA.B.K, Advocate,
Office at, No. 1, 1st floor, Mahadeshwara complex, Attibele road, Anekal Town, Bangalore District- 562 106.
MOB: 9482018477

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri. LOKESH,** aged about 55 years, S/o. Sri. Subramanya, Residing at No.10, 2nd Floor, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Naidu Layout, Subramanyapura, Bangalore 560061 and he represented to my client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and he has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof.

Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **7 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Site No.2133,** BDA PID No.3320041729, in BDA Layout situated at **4th Block, (Vrushabhavathi Nagar) Banashankari 6th stage, Bangalore** measuring East to West: 6.00 Mtrs., North to South: 9.00 Mtrs., totally measuring **54.00 Sq. Mtrs.,** together RCC roofed House constructed thereon and **East by : Site No. 2132, West by : Site No. 2134, North By : Site No. 2195, South by : Road.**

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 12-01-2025

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc@apsasc.edu.in
Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for Purchase and Installation of 28 IP cameras at APS ASC C & C Pre –Primary wing . Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website apsasc@apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹500/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 13 Jan 2025 to 20 Jan 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 22 Jan 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc@apsasc.edu.in
Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for Purchase and Installation of 20 IP cameras at APS ASC C & C. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website apsasc@apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹500/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from13 Jan 2025 to 20 Jan 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 22 Jan 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for Purchase of 3 Laptop & all in one PC for APS ASC C & C. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹500/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 13 Jan 2025 to 20 Jan 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 22 Jan 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No.: E/1179/W-1173R1 **Date: 11.01.2025**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Maintenance, BLW, Varanasi acting or and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tenders for the following work. **Tender No.:** EL/1179/W-1173R1, **Name of work:** "Replacement of Centralized Air Conditioning Plant, AHU & Cooling Tower of Computer Building & D&D building", **Approximate cost Rs.:** ₹ 66,66,914.46, **Completion period:** 06 Months, **Earnest money:** ₹ 1,33,300/-, **Tender opening date and time:** 31.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. For details and to participate e-tender please visit Indian railways website www.ireps.gov.in.

P.R./BLW/E-14 **Assistant Electrical Engineer**

/blwvaranasi "वेबसाईट:–blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

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Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
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VENUE: IDEMI EXTENTION CENTRE-C/O MSME DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, WEST OF CHORD RD, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560010

Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, दुमका
(rdsddumka1@gmail.com)

अतिअल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या– RDSD/DMK/MMGSY/40/2024-25/RE-2

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

क्रम संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मुल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	दुमका जिला के प्रखंड सरैयाहाट अन्तर्गत जयनगरा वेलदाहा घाट पर पुल निर्माण।	5,52,91,500	11,06,000	10,000.00	24 माह

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 17.01.2025
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 17.01.2025 से दिनांक 24.01.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबावदेही आपकी होगी।
5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :– e-Procurement Cell, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल दुमका।
6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– दिनांक 27.01.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,दुमका।
8. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दुरभाष संख्या :– 7091279444
9. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,दुमका

PR 344072 Rural Work Department(24-25).D

AXIS BANK **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION**
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **22.01.2025 at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/c No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Banashankari, (BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX993117	S Hemalatha	135169.2	15-Feb-24	36.700	32.400
Bangarapet Kt	XXXXXXXXXX881062	ASHRAF .	80311	20-Nov-24	18.000	17.600
Basavangudi, (BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX511611	Dhimanth Kumar	117403.49	28-Nov-24	26.600	26.100
Basaveshwar (BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX387612	Priyanka E Jothi	481051.9	07-Oct-24	128.500	117.650
Basaveshwar (BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX235777	Chandan V	141696	04-Nov-24	31.300	30.800
Basaveshwar (BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX349012	Deepa Sajjanar	51030	04-Nov-24	11.800	11.000
Chikballapur Kola Kt	XXXXXXXXXX247048	Archana S	158184	27-Sep-24	35.600	33.300
Chikballapur Kola Kt	XXXXXXXXXX822309	Somashekara M	123848	27-Sep-24	19.700	19.000
Cox Town, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX955377	Julia Satwi Karre	52182	07-Oct-24	16.900	15.500
Cox Town, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX961666	Julia Satwi Karre	50166	07-Oct-24	13.600	13.000
Devanahalli,Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX758218	Murthy M	124626	07-Sep-24	38.000	29.000
Electronic City, Bangalore	XXXXXXXXXX817961	Minchala Prasad	201824.98	04-Nov-24	47.400	46.300
Garvebhavipalya Kt	XXXXXXXXXX590468	Edagottu Simhadri	31375	28-Nov-24	9.700	8.900
Hoskote,Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX423375	Syed Nayaz Pasha	87901	28-Nov-24	22.800	22.000
Hoskote,Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX618027	K Mohan	46436	27-Sep-24	11.600	10.500
Indiranagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX289968	Mir Abis Ali	703707	07-Sep-24	155.900	153.200
J C Road,Bangalore[Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX381035	Balaji P	88962	07-Sep-24	22.900	22.300
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX613604	Monnappa M U	82791	04-Nov-24	17.500	17.200
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX347352	Monnappa M U	55787	04-Nov-24	12.800	12.200
J P Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX022231	Monnappa M U	31722	04-Nov-24	7.400	6.600
Jayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX374105	K Shankar Raju	615450	28-Nov-24	143.300	134.900
Jayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX377311	K Shankar Raju	347838	28-Nov-24	72.400	71.100
Kalkere Bangalore Kt	XXXXXXXXXX735480	Murali Ramakrishna	86747	28-Nov-24	19.400	19.000
Kasthuri Nagar,(BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX905275	Kamalesh Singh	565853	27-Sep-24	130.400	122.000
Kasthuri Nagar,(BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX544591	Lakshmi Priya Poli	506659	07-Sep-24	168.700	142.900
Kasthuri Nagar,(BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX768580	Lakshmi Priya Poli	231307	04-Nov-24	69.500	60.500
Kasthuri Nagar,(BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX347213	Rajesh Kanna Venkatachalam	119501.9	04-Nov-24	28.600	28.000
Kasthuri Nagar,(BAN) [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX506891	Pendlamarri Rajesh Kumar	74491	28-Nov-24	15.900	15.600
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX769574	KAVITHA N	108875	27-Sep-24	26.400	24.800
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX415054	SUCHITHRA S N	99000	28-Nov-24	24.400	23.600
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX774903	L ADNAN ALI KHAN	86844	04-Nov-24	20.100	19.700
Kolar [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX590022	ABDUL USMAN	32362	28-Nov-24	9.800	9.400
Mahalakshmi Lay Bngr Kt	XXXXXXXXXX452739	Harish R	152348	15-Feb-24	44.500	40.500
Mahalakshmi Lay Bngr Kt	XXXXXXXXXX661793	Deepa S R	63942	05-Aug-24	18.500	15.800
Malur Kt	XXXXXXXXXX718207	N ETHI PRASAD	123949	20-Nov-24	23.900	22.000
Marathahalli, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX992402	Naveen A	206258	15-Feb-24	100.900	61.000
Marathahalli, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX361594	Ashraf	85648	02-Apr-24	25.600	20.700
Marathahalli, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX481374	Lokesha P	76326	04-Aug-24	23.700	23.000
Marathahalli, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX028718	Konduru Ashok Kumar Raju	44780	28-Nov-24	11.000	10.800
Old Madras Road Ban Kt	XXXXXXXXXX705082	Mujahid .	38646	27-Sep-24	15.100	14.800
R T Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX804780	Aslam Ahmed	725383	04-Nov-24	296.200	219.800
R T Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX783589	Chandrakumar Nagaraj	81132.71	04-Nov-24	24.300	24.000
R T Nagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX700724	Gayathri .	38771	28-Nov-24	8.200	8.000
Rajarajeshwarinagar, (BAN)	XXXXXXXXXX914845	Anantha Shivaram	169722	28-Nov-24	38.670	38.670
Sanjaynagar,Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX295820	Rati Roopa .	240756	07-Oct-24	67.800	59.800
Sanjay Nagar,Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX111512	Karravula Venkataharikrishna	89198.44	07-Sep-24	23.200	22.300
Shanthinagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX029077	Bharath O M	36178	08-May-24	9.800	9.700
Tiptur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX108772	JAYANTH D	72368	04-Nov-24	16.100	16.000
Tumkur [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX306251	GURUMURTHI G	149552	28-Nov-24	34.300	32.500
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX171268	Shalini A	526719	07-Sep-24	126.400	126.400
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX685907	Syed Sirajuddin	386062	28-Nov-24	80.200	79.300
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX691106	Syed Sirajuddin	242710	28-Nov-24	101.400	99.600
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX259565	P Veena	172967.58	20-Jul-24	100.500	93.600
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX189072	Nagaraja S H	116586	04-Nov-24	25.130	25.130
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX413012	Abdullah Yafai	117097	06-Sep-24	31.500	31.500
Vijayanagar, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX396460	Syed Zainullabuddin	69067.51	06-Sep-24	20.500	18.000
Yelahanka, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX882509	K Sujatha	543743	27-Sep-24	193.000	189.100
Yelahanka, Bangalore [Kt]	XXXXXXXXXX801590	Manojit Roy	289785.45	04-Aug-24	66.700	65.900

Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 22.01.2025 between 12:30PM to 3:30PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

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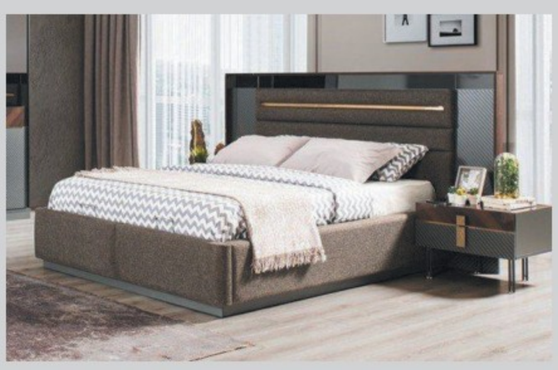

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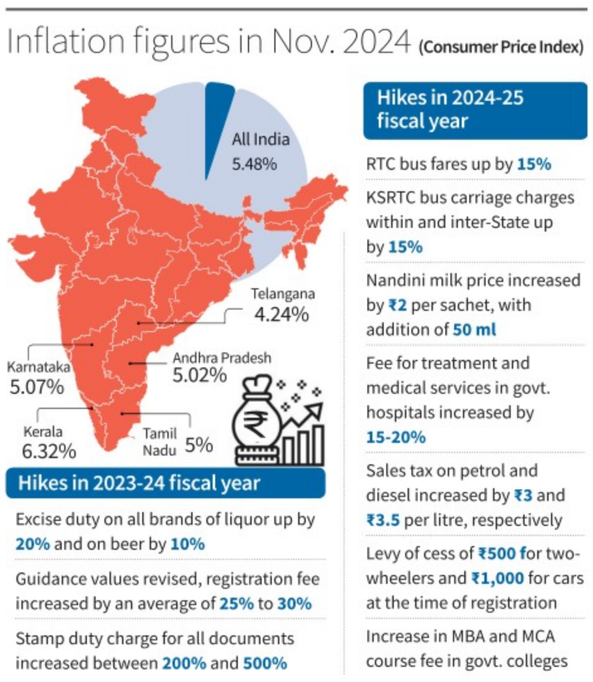
No respite for people in State from rising costs

While the Opposition has sought to pin all the increase on the initiation of guarantee schemes, the government has argued that price rise in many cases was long overdue

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The 20 months of the Congress government in Karnataka has seen costs of several essentials increasing, with taxes and prices going up, providing no respite to common people.

This has given ammunition to the Opposition to target the government, arguing that the government is taxing people, unable to bear the fiscal burden of funding the five guarantee schemes, which costs the State exchequer nearly ₹60,000 crore annually.



Slew of hikes

The Siddaramaiah-led government began the New Year by increasing fares of road transport corporation (RTC) buses. Earlier, it had increased Nandini milk price (offering extra milk per sachet), sales tax on fuel, stamp duty charge, hospital admission and investigation charges, guidance value, motor vehicle registration fee, and liquor price. Now, the government is mulling over increasing the price of milk, water and electricity tariff, and metro train ticket fares too.

The recent hike in bus fares and carriage charges would lead to a jump in core inflation (transport and food) and adversely impact the public. As on November 2024, inflation in Karnataka was 5.07% as against the country's average of 5.48%.

The increase in the price of all major services, bus fares, and KSRTC bus carriage charges (hiring buses for rallies and pilgrimages) in the New Year has become a political flashpoint between the Congress and the Opposition BJP and JD(S). Pinning it all on the spends on the guarantee schemes, the Opposition has alleged that development works have come to a standstill owing to lack of funds.

Opposition attacks

While the Chief Minister justified the government's "welfare approach" of empowering the poorer sections through the guarantees, the Opposition ridiculed them as *bitti bhagay*s (freebies) and claimed that it would make the State's coffers empty. What has given more ammunition to the Opposition is a section of Congress legislators themselves voicing their disappointment over the implementation of the guarantees, claiming it has curtailed funds to their constituencies.

Excise duty

Soon after it assumed power in May 2023, the government increased the excise duty on the maximum retail price (MRP) of all brands of liquor by 20% and beer by 10%. On October 1, 2023, the guidance values were revised. Buyers have been paying more for registration of properties with the new guidance value, which was revised by an average of 25% to 30% in Bengaluru.

In June 2024, the sales tax on petrol and diesel was increased by ₹3 and ₹3.5 per litre, respectively. The is expected to mobilise additional ₹3,000 crore to the State exchequer annually. In the past, as fuel prices increased, the State government had stayed away from increasing the tax.

Since November 2024, patients visiting government hospitals are being charged more fees for services. The user fee in hospitals has been revised by up to 20%. For instance, the cost of a single-bed special ward has been increased from ₹750 to ₹2,000 per day, OPD registration fee has gone up from ₹10 to ₹20, and inpatient admission fee from ₹25 to ₹50.

In defence

Ministers and government functionaries, however, have been defending the hikes, saying many were long overdue and that they cannot be linked to the guarantee schemes. For example, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao argued that the increase in the user fees in hospitals was "minimum" for the poorer sections. Similarly, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy defended bus fare hike, citing escalation in fuel and operation costs. He also released statistics to argue that the increase was several times more during the BJP regime. Guidance value revision, earlier done annually, was stalled during COVID-19 pandemic years and the escalation now is meant to catch up with the market situation, the government has said.

Extensions given to govt. employees a setback for those next in line: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has disfavoured extensions given to those in government services, saying such a step affected the prospects of those next in line. He said there have been cases where employees, particularly those in premier services, never seem to be retiring and continuing in service even after their superannuation, by getting some ad hoc positions.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the inauguration of the 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

'Defies logical principle'

Delivering the inaugural address at the 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions (PSCs) in Bengaluru on Saturday, he said, "Extension of service defies the logical principle of expectation. We have a doctrine of expectation. People devote decades to be in a particular groove. Extension indicates that an individual is indispensable. Indispensability is a myth. Talent abounds in this country. No one is indispensable."

The Rajya Sabha Chairman said appointments could not be driven by patronage or favouritism. "There are trends that are visible... We cannot have a PSC chairman or a member wedded to a particular ideology or an individual. That will be undoing the essence and spirit of the framework of the Constitution."

Drawing attention towards post-retirement assignments, Mr. Dhankhar said employees have not been retiring, particularly those in premier services, and they have been provided ad hoc positions.

He expressed concern over question paper leaks and said: "This is a menace. Your fairness of selection will have no meaning if paper leakages are there, and it has become an industry, a commerce."

He stressed the need for innovation in identifying talent and for State PSCs to have a separate dialogue with the private sector to understand best practices in talent acquisition, for providing better governance.

"Globally, the top 500 companies are employing the best tools for headhunting. We cannot remain fossilised with a stagnant set-up. If need be, a separate dialogue must be initiated with the private sector to understand best practices in talent acquisition, and the scope of their emulation by the State commissions should be looked into," he said.

Standardised process

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government implemented the Karnataka Civil Services (Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2021, which emphasise reducing personality test weightage, and standardised the process in recruitment of candidates.

"Rising unemployment demands swift recruitment processes with fairness. Timely result publication, as practised by the Union Public Service Commission, can serve as a model," the Chief Minister said.

'India's patent contribution leaves much to be desired'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said India's patent contribution leaves much to be desired in the global perspective.

At the Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) R&D award ceremony, Mr. Dhankhar said: "In the global perspective, our patent contribution leaves much to be desired... Research has to be cutting-edge. Research has to be practical... There is no use having research which goes a little beyond surface sketching."

On indigenisation, he said it should not be confined to nuts and bolts.

"I have had the occasion to see indigenous components and we are increasingly having equipment that have indigenisation. But are we having engines? Are we having the core material? Are we having that which others want to see from us?... There is no point in being satisfied that we are indigenous when it comes to nuts and bolts. Our aim has to be 100%," the Vice-President said.

Mr. Dhankhar also visited Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.-Electronics Division in Bengaluru and addressed officials. He said research and development and innovation must now be the passwords for success.

Chikkamagaluru police recover arms from forest

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Chikkamagaluru police have recovered arms and ammunition, reportedly belonging to the Maoists who surrendered on January 8, from a forest area near Kittaleguli near Jayapura in Koppa taluk.

Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Vikram Amathe, on Saturday, informed the media that the Jayapura police recovered an AK-56, three rifles (.303), a country-made pistol, a single-barrel gun, and 176 rounds of ammunition. They have registered a case under the Arms Act, 1959.

The arms and ammunition recovered by the police from a forest area near Jayapura in Koppa taluk of Chikkamagaluru district.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as six Maoists surrendered in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on January 8. They did not surrender any weapons at that time.

Senior police officers said the police would recover the weapons in the procedures after the surrender formalities were completed.

The Maoists have been remanded in judicial custody in Bengaluru.

KSE to float 'Krantiveera Brigade' to organise OBCs, Dalits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, who has been expelled from the BJP, is set to float 'Krantiveera Brigade' to organise OBCs and Dalits. It will be launched on February 4 at Basavana Bagewadi in Vijayapura district. He has said that several seers will attend the launch.

Mr. Eshwarappa, who was the OBC face of the BJP, had started a similar brigade when he was in the party. He aborted the mission after BJP central leaders advised him to drop it, reportedly at the instance of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

K.S. Eshwarappa

Mr. Eshwarappa has announced that the proposed brigade would stand by "any Hindu organisation or group". Also, heads of various religious institutions and mutts would be part of the proposed brigade, which he claims would not have any political affiliation.

Mr. Eshwarappa told *The Hindu* that while he would be the convener of the brigade, among a few others, including former Minister Gulihatti Shekhar and OBC leader Mukudappa, and his son Kanthesh would be the working president. Among other issues, the brigade would take up the cause of those who have received eviction notices from the waqf board, he said.

'Cleansing' BJP

When asked if he would consider rejoining the BJP if its leaders made such an offer to him, Mr. Eshwarappa said he would consider it if measures were taken to "cleanse" the party - a demand he had raised while in the BJP.

"The main reason for my expulsion from the BJP was my demand that the party should be cleansed by freeing it from the clutches of those trying to impose dynastic rule," he said, in an obvious reference to veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

To a question on whether he was extending support to the group of BJP rebels led by MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, which too is making a similar demand, Mr. Eshwarappa said he had neither offered support to anyone in the BJP nor had he asked for support from those in the party for his brigade.

C.T. Ravi gets threat letter; case booked

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

BJP MLC and former Minister C.T. Ravi received a threat letter at his residence in Chikkamagaluru on Friday.

The anonymous letter threatened the BJP leader and his family members with dire consequences. Following this, Mr. Ravi's personal staff filed a complaint with the Basavanahalli police in the town. Confirming the development, Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Vikram Amathe told *The Hindu* that they would investigate the matter.

Mr. Ravi faced criticism over his alleged objectionable remarks against Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar during the legislature session.

Women dairy farmers honoured at summit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Dairy Association, South Zone, celebrated the hard work and innovation of women dairy farmers on the final day of the Southern Dairy Summit 2025 here on Saturday. K. Venkatesh, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, was the chief guest.

'The Best Woman Dairy Farmer 2024' was awarded State-wise to Naveena Kumari (Andhra Pradesh), Mangalamma (Karnataka), Vidhu Rajeev (Kerala and Lakshadweep), Pudhaari Gangavva (Telangana), and Selvanayaki (Puducherry).

The South Zone Dairy Summit 2026 will be held in Kerala, with dates and venue to be announced.

Ms. Rajeev shared her journey from teacher to agri-preneur. Returning to Kerala from Muscat, what began as her husband's suggestion to keep goats and hens to entertain their children evolved into an integrated farm. In 2018, with two cows – a Jersey and an HF breed – producing 17 litres of milk, she decided to expand. By 2020, she had six cows, and her ambition grew steadily. Her innovative approach earned her the Kerala State Award for Best Integrated Farmer that same year.

Concerned about the environmental impact of cow dung and urine during Kerala's heavy rains, she devised an underground channel that directs the waste to a well. "This system keeps the farm clean, eliminates odours, and prevents mosquitoes," she explained, adding that cow dung is "black gold".

State govt. urged to provide legal assistance to surrendered Maoists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shantigagi Nagarikara Vedike, a citizens' initiative for peace, has appealed to the State government to provide appropriate legal assistance to the six Maoists who surrendered and entered the mainstream recently.

At a press conference on Saturday, Noor Sridhar, a member of the organisation, said: "The first phase of bringing the Maoists into the mainstream has been completed. They have been brought from the forest to jail. Now, we all have to do the work of bringing them back to society from jail."

'Resolve problems'

He further stated that it was not enough to bring them into the mainstream and the government should show its will to resolve the social and economic problems that led to the movement.

Nagargere Ramesh, another member of the organisation, said: "The Maoists have changed the path of struggle and the government has given them an opportunity to change that path of struggle. This is a transition to a new path of democratic struggle."

They have sought a judicial inquiry into Vikram Gowda's encounter case, speedy resolution of the cases of Kanyakumari and others who have been in jail for seven to eight years, cooperation between Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka governments to bring former Maoists from jail into the mainstream.

Government of Karnataka
O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal
NO:REV/EST/03/2025/E-269064 Date: 09.01.2025
Tender Notification
(Through KPPP-Portal)
Tenders are invited from Manpower Agency for hiring of **Data Entry Operators (06) & Group-D (32)** for O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal & its sub offices on outsource basis for a period of **01.02.2025 to 31.01.2026.** Tender document may be downloaded & Terms and Conditions can be viewed in Government of Karnataka e-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date and time for receipt of tenders is **27/01/2025 up to 4.00PM.**
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner & Tender Inviting Authority O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/667/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No: FD 01 BMB 2024 Dated: 09.01.2025
NOTICE
1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.2000 crore (Rs.2000 crore-11 Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : January 14,2025
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**
Sd/- (Dr. P.C Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department
DIPR/CP/4227/Zen/2024-25

Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar speaking at an event at Sringeri on Saturday. PTI

I work as per party's wishes and do not want anybody's support: Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar has said he will not expect any MLA to raise his or her voice in his support and that he will work as per the Congress party's instructions.

Speaking to presspersons at Sringeri in Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday, he said, "I don't want anybody's support. I work as per the party's wishes." Reciting a shloka from the Bhagavad Gita, he said he would just work and not worry about the reward.

Asked about the demand of some party workers that he should become the next Chief Minister, he said, "I do not want anyone putting pressure on my behalf. I do not want anyone's support. I don't want any MLA to shout out his support for me. It is between the Congress party and me. I will do whatever the party wants me to do. I am just doing my duty."

The Deputy Chief Minister participates in Suvarna Bharati event at Sringeri

He said, "The people have blessed me and given me an opportunity. We will govern the State for five years. The Chief Minister and I will work as per the party's instructions. What others say does not matter."

Further, on his recent temple visits, Mr. Shivakumar said he is a believer and would pray to God every day. "I pray for the welfare of the State, my well-wishers, and myself," he said, dismissing those who were ridiculing his "temple run".

Mr. Shivakumar was in Sringeri to participate in the Suvarna Bharati programme, organised to commemorate the 50th year of Bharati Tirtha's initiation to monkhood.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to buy Lands bearing old Survey No. 29/18, new Survey Nos. 29/182 measuring 6 Guntas and 29/183, measuring 2 Guntas, total 8 Guntas, Situated at Konasandra Village, Jigani Hobli. Anekal Taluk. Bangalore Urban District. from its owners 1) Sri. JAGDISH C. S/o Chikkamuniappa, 2) HEMANTH BABU V. S/o Venkatarama Reddy. and 3) Smt. KRISHNAMMA W/o. Munikrishnappa. who acquired the same by way of 2 Sale Deeds and they claim to be the absolute owners of the said Lands.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien or claim by way of inheritance, mortgage gift, charges or otherwise of whatsoever with Regard to the Lands hereinabove mentioned may send their objections if any to the undersigned within ten days from the date of this Notice with documentary evidence of their claims, failing which, the claims of all such persons shall be Deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client shall proceed with the purchase on the basis that there are no claims of any nature whatsoever in respect of the hereinabove said Lands.

S. SALAHUDDIN KHAN
M.A(Econ). M.B.A, LL.B., PG-DPM., CA/USA)
Advocate & Consultant
No.7. Basappa Road, Shanthinagar.
Bangalore-560027
Phone: 85535 58527/9886 283276

Bangalore
12-01-2025 Sd/-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Sri. Gopalakrishna C**, S/o. late Chikkanna, who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Seven (7) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing No.1674, having PID No.6000064129, measuring East to West 9.00 Mtrs., and North to South 12 Mtrs., totally measuring about 108 Sq.Mtrs., situated at Block-II of 'Arkavathi Layout', formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, carved out of Sy.No.27/4 of Sampegehalli Village, Bangalore, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.1675
West by : Property bearing No.1673
North by : Road
South by: Property bearing No.1620

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients are intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Sri. Raman C.V**, S/o. late C.L. Venkateswaran, through his Power of Attorney being his wife Smt. Ramasundari, who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Seven (7) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing No.145, Phase – I, having Property No.282/145, (as per Singanayakanhalli Village Panchayath) with PID No.150200202000320455, measuring East to West 20.33 Mtrs., and North to South 14.90 Mtrs., totally measuring about 302.92 Sq.Mtrs., formed out of erstwhile Sy.No.92/1 of Avalahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Presently Yelahanka Taluk, earlier Bangalore North Taluk, (falling under the revenue jurisdiction of Singanayakanhalli Village Panchayath) together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

East by : Private Property,
West by : Road
North by : Site bearing No.144.
South by: Private Property,

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

NOTIFICATION

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION,
No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No. GESCOM/ CEE(O)/SEE(MIS)/ EE(RA)/AEE(RA)(T)/24-25/52079-84 Dated: 09-01-2025

IN THE MATTER OF: An application for Approval of Annual Performance Review (APR) for FY 2023-24, approval of ARR (Aggregate Revenue Requirement) and ERC (Expected Revenue from Charges) for FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28 under Multi Year Tariff principles in accordance with the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024 of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), Kalaburagi-585 102 under Section 27 of the Karnataka Electricity Reforms Act, 1999 and under Section 61 & 62 of Electricity Act, 2003, read with relevant KERC (Tariff) Regulations.

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM), Station Road, Kalaburagi-585 102 ..... PETITIONER

N O T I C E

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited (GESCOM) has filed an application before the Hon'ble Commission for Approval of APR for FY 2023-24, approval of ARR and ERC for FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28 under Multi Year Tariff principles in accordance with Section 61 & 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Hon'ble Commission has treated it as petition in terms of Tariff regulations subject to further verification & validation.

1. NEED FOR REVISION: As per Regulation No. 4.2(I) of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024, GESCOM has filed a Multi-Year Tariff petition comprising the forecast of ARR, expected revenue from existing Tariff and Charges, expected revenue gap and proposed Tariff and Charges for each year of the Control Period, i.e., FY 2025-26, FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28.

A revenue deficit arises due to the mismatch between the revenue receipts from existing tariff and Aggregate Revenue Requirement of GESCOM as detailed below, including subsidy from GOK:

Year	Revenue Receipts Rs. In Crores	Revenue Requirement Rs. In Crores	Revenue Deficit Rs. In Crores	Average Cost of Supply Rs. / Unit
1	2	3	4=(3–2)	5
2023-24*	8464.76	8938.38	473.61	9.33
2025-26**	8150.58	8301.55	150.97	9.36
		Total gap	624.58	
2026-27**	8292.94	8758.14	465.20	8.89
2027-28**	8680.40	9483.08	802.67	9.20

* Proposed for True up ** Estimated

1. Note:* As per the Annual Accounts of GESCOM, for FY 24, total loss is Rs. 1496.61 Crores.
2. Note:** Annual Revenue requirement for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 8775.16 Crores and Average Cost of Supply for FY 2025-26 includes the deficit of FY-24 is Rs. 9.36 / Unit.

Annual Revenue Requirement for the Control Period FY2025-26 to FY2027-28:

Amount in Crs.

Particulars		FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28
A.	**Estimated Annual Revenue Requirement**			
(a)	Power Purchase Cost	5889.95	6101.99	6652.38
(b)	O&M Charges	1500.05	1607.08	1720.92
(c)	Depreciation	270.30	277.15	287.21
(d)	Interest & Finance Charges	398.69	449.85	501.57
(e)	Return on Equity	0.00	0.00	0.00
(f)	Other Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
(g)	Less: Other Income	(97.20)	(21.36)	(22.75)
(h)	Government Portion of Pension & Gratuity contribution to be collected from consumers, as per the decision of the Government.	339.76	343.43	343.75
	Total	**8301.55**	**8758.14**	**9483.08**
B.	**Estimated Expected Revenue from Charges @ existing tariff rates**			
(a)	Tariff Charges	7851.00	8253.11	8642.29
(b)	Miscellaneous Charges	299.58	39.83	38.12
	Total	**8150.58**	**8292.94**	**8680.41**
Revenue Deficit (A-B)	Government Portion of Pension & Gratuity contribution to be collected from consumers, as per the decision of the Government.	339.76	343.43	343.75
	Due to other components of estimate Annual Revenue Requirement	(188.79)	121.77	458.92
	Total	**150.97**	**465.20**	**802.67**
	Revenue Deficit of FY 2023-24 carried forward	473.61	0.00	0.00
	Total Revenue Deficit	**624.58**	**465.20**	**802.67**

There is a Revenue deficit of Rs. 473.61 Crs. for FY 2023-24 and Rs. 150.97 Crs of deficit is expected for FY 2025-26. Net deficit for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 624.58 Crs. Deficit of Rs. 465.20 Crs. and Rs. 802.67 Crs is expected for FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28 respectively. Hence, the revision in tariff is very essential. GESCOM plans to recover Rs. 624.58 Crs in FY-26, Rs. 465.20 Crs in FY-27 and Rs.802.67 Crs in FY-28 from the proposed revision of Tariff. GESCOM has submitted its application for approval of Annual Performance Review for FY-24 and approval of ARR and ERC for the Retail Supply Business and for the Distribution Business for FY-26 to FY-28.

2. **PROPOSED TARIFF INCREASE:** It is proposed to increase the tariff applicable to various categories of consumers as **shown in Annexure-1.**
3. Pursuant to Regulation-11.8 of Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Multi Year Transmission, Distribution and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2024, it is hereby notified that the persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same with the Receiving Officer, O/o The Secretary, KERC, No. 16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasant nagar, Bengaluru-560 052, along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in six sets, duly supported by an affidavit **within Thirty days from the date of publication** of this Tariff Notification in the Newspapers and also to indicate whether they want to be heard in person or not. A copy of the objection may be marked to The Superintending Engineer (Ele.,) , MIS, Corporate office, GESCOM, Station Main Road, Kalaburagi-585 102 for furnishing replies to the said objections. Interested persons may file their objections within the stipulated time.
4. For reference of those who are interested, copies of the petition are available at all O&M Circle Offices of GESCOM, and also at Corporate Office, GESCOM, Station Main Road, Kalaburagi- 585 102, during office working hours within 10 working days of the publication.
5. They may also obtain copies of the required portion of the petition by paying photocopying charges.
6. Further, a full set of tariff petition and replies to preliminary observations will also be made available to the interested persons by all Superintending Engineers (Ele.,) O&M Circle Offices, and at Corporate Office of GESCOM on payment of Rs. 750/- and Rs. 900/- respectively total Rs. 1650/- (Rs. One Thousand and Six Hundred Fifty Only).
7. The soft copy of the ERC/Tariff application, Commission's preliminary observations & Compliance of GESCOM can be viewed on GESCOM's website (gescom.karnataka.gov.in).

For Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele.,)
MIS, Corporate Office,
GESCOM, Station Main Road,
Kalaburagi- 585 102

Annexure-1

Statement Showing the Details of Existing Tariff and Proposed Tariff.

Sl No.	Tariff Category	Type of installation	Slab		Existing Tariff FY 2024-25		Proposed Tariff for FY 2025-26			Proposed Tariff for FY 2026-27			Proposed Tariff for FY 2027-28		
					Fixed Charges	Energy Charges	Fixed Charges	Energy Charges	Government Portion of Pension & Gratuity contribution to be collected from consumers, as per the decision of the Government.	Fixed Charges	Energy Charges	Government Portion of Pension & Gratuity Contribution to be collected from consumers, as per the decision of the Government	Fixed Charges	Energy Charges	Government Portion of Pension & Gratuity Contribution to be collected from consumers, as per the decision of the Government
					(in Rs.)	(Rs/kWh)	(in Rs.)	(Rs/kWh)	(Rs/kWh)	(in Rs.)	(Rs/kWh)	(Rs/kWh)	(in Rs.)	(Rs/kWh)	(Rs/kWh)
1	LT-1	Domestic	With SL upto 50 KW	Per KW / Month	120.00	5.90	145.00	5.54	0.36	145.00	5.55	0.35	145.00	5.57	0.33
			For Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	Per KW / Month	210.00		235.00			235.00			235.00		
2	LT-2	Private Educational Institutions	With SL upto 50 KW	Per KW / Month	180.00	7.25	230.00	7.39	0.36	230.00	6.90	0.35	230.00	6.92	0.33
			For Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	Per KW / Month	250.00		300.00			300.00			300.00		
3	LT-3(a)	Commercial	With SL upto 50 KW	Per KW / Month	210.00	8.00	260.00	7.14	0.36	260.00	7.65	0.35	260.00	7.67	0.33
			For Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	Per KW / Month	300.00		350.00			350.00			350.00		
		Demand Based Tariff	With SL upto 50 KW	Per KW / Month	220.00	8.00	280.00	7.14	0.36	280.00	7.65	0.35	280.00	7.67	0.33
			For Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	Per KW / Month	320.00		370.00			370.00			370.00		
4	LT-3(b)	Commercial-Adversement & Hoardings	All installations	Per KW / Month	200.00	10.50	250.00	10.64	0.36	250.00	10.15	0.35	250.00	10.17	0.33
5	LT-4(a)	IP sets - 10 HP and below	All installations	Per unit / Month		7.45	50.00	7.59	0.36	50.00	7.10	0.35	50.00	7.87	0.33
6	LT-4(b)	IP sets - Above 10 HP	All installations	Per HP / Month	135.00	4.10	185.00	4.24	0.36	185.00	3.75	0.35	185.00	3.77	0.33
7	LT-4(c)	Private Horticulture Nurseries, Coffee & Tea Plantations	All installations	Per HP / Month	135.00	4.25	185.00	4.39	0.36	185.00	3.90	0.35	185.00	3.92	0.33
8	LT-5	Industries	With SL < 100HP	Per HP / Month	140.00	6.10	190.00	5.24	0.36	190.00	5.75	0.35	190.00	5.77	0.33
			With SL => 100HP	Per HP / Month	250.00		300.00			300.00			300.00		
		Demand Based Tariff	With SL < 100HP	Per KW / Month	190.00	6.10	240.00	5.24	0.36	240.00	5.75	0.35	240.00	5.77	0.33
			With SL => 100HP	Per KW / Month	300.00		350.00			350.00			350.00		
9	LT-6(a)	Water Supply	With SL below 67 HP	Per HP / Month	180.00	5.50	230.00	5.64	0.36	230.00	5.15	0.35	230.00	5.17	0.33
			For Every Addl. HP above 67 HP	Per HP / Month	275.00		325.00			325.00			325.00		
10	LT-6(b)	Public Lighting	All installations	Per KW / Month	180.00	7.00	230.00	7.14	0.36	230.00	6.65	0.35	230.00	6.67	0.33
		Public Lighting (LED)	All installations	Per KW / Month	180.00	6.00	230.00	6.14	0.36	230.00	5.65	0.35	230.00	5.67	0.33
11	LT 6(c) (LT)	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	With SL upto 50 KW	Per KW / Month	70.00	4.50	70.00	4.14	0.36	70.00	4.15	0.35	70.00	4.17	0.33
			For Every Addl. KW above 50 KW	Per KW / Month	170.00		170.00			170.00			170.00		
	LT 6(c) (HT)	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	All installations	Per KVA / Month	200.00		200.00			200.00			200.00		
12	LT-7	Temporary Power Supply	All installations	Per KW / Month	200.00	11.50	250.00	11.64	0.36	250.00	11.15	0.35	250.00	11.17	0.33
13	HT-1	Water Supply	All installations	Per KVA / Month	340.00	6.25	390.00	5.64	0.36	390.00	5.90	0.35	390.00	5.92	0.33
14	HT-2a	Industries	All installations	Per KVA / Month	340.00	6.90	390.00	6.29	0.36	390.00	6.55	0.35	390.00	6.57	0.33
		Railway Traction & Effluent Treatment Plants	All installations	Per KVA / Month	340.00	6.50	340.00	6.14	0.36	340.00	6.15	0.35	340.00	6.17	0.33
15	HT-2b	Commercial	All installations	Per KVA / Month	365.00	8.00	415.00	7.39	0.36	415.00	7.65	0.35	415.00	7.67	0.33
16	HT-2c(i)	Hospitals / educational instituitions-Govt.	All installations	Per KVA / Month	290.00	7.10	340.00	6.49	0.36	340.00	6.75	0.35	340.00	6.77	0.33
17	HT-2c(ii)	Hospitals / educational instituitions-Private	All installations	Per KVA / Month	340.00	8.10	390.00	7.49	0.36	390.00	7.75	0.35	390.00	7.77	0.33
18	HT-3	LI Schemes (Other than Govt)	All installations	Per HP / Month	150.00	1.50	200.00	0.89	0.36	200.00	1.15	0.35	200.00	1.17	0.33
19	HT-4	Residential Aparments	All installations	Per KVA / Month	290.00	7.25	340.00	6.64	0.36	340.00	6.90	0.35	340.00	6.92	0.33
20	HT-5	Temporary Power Supply	All installations	Per HP / Month	400.00	11.50	450.00	10.89	0.36	450.00	11.15	0.35	450.00	11.17	0.33
21	HT-6	Irrigation & Agricultural Farms	All installations	Per HP / Month	150.00	5.50	200.00	4.89	0.36	200.00	5.15	0.35	200.00	5.17	0.33
22	HT-7	LI Schemes (Govt)	All installations	Per HP / Month	150.00	4.75	200.00	4.14	0.36	200.00	4.40	0.35	200.00	4.42	0.33

DIPR/Kalaburagi/833/KSMC&A/2024-25

Police and villagers organising an awareness rally against rooster fights and other banned games in Eluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A.P. Police destroy rooster fight arenas

Rajulapudi Srinivas
ELURU

With Sankranti festivities nearing, the police cracked the whip on rooster fight organisers at various places in Andhra Pradesh. They damaged the arenas with earthmoving machines and tractors and deployed additional forces in the villages.

The police erected banners and urged villagers through the public addressing system not to conduct rooster fights and other banned games.

"We will take severe action if anybody indulges in banned games," the police said.

The police served notices on the owners who leased their lands to rooster fight organisers and punters.

They warned of stern action, if anyone violates the High Court order on rooster fights.

Probe against Exalogic in public interest: Centre to HC

Centre defends action against company owned by Kerala CM's daughter Veena; says probe reveals that during operation of business, illegal payments have been made to political functionaries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has defended before the Delhi High Court its decision to probe the affairs of Exalogic Solutions Private Limited, owned by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T. Veena, Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL), and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

In a written submission made to the court, which has already reserved its verdict on December 23, 2024, the Centre said, "The inquiries/investigations reveal that during the course of operation of business of the CMRL, several illegal payments have been made to various political functionaries and entities."

T. Veena

"These transactions involve illegally inflating the expenditure by the CMRL towards payment to vendors in transportation, sludge handling operations, etc. During the course of investigation, the amount so illegally paid is calculated to be around ₹185 crore," the Centre said. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs had in January 2024 ordered a probe into the affairs of Exalogic, CMRL, and the KSIDC by the SFIO.

The CMRL had moved the court in April last year challenging the Ministry's decision and also sought directives that documents and information furnished by it before the Interim Board for Settlement, Delhi, should be protected and should not be shared with any individual, authority or law enforcement agencies.

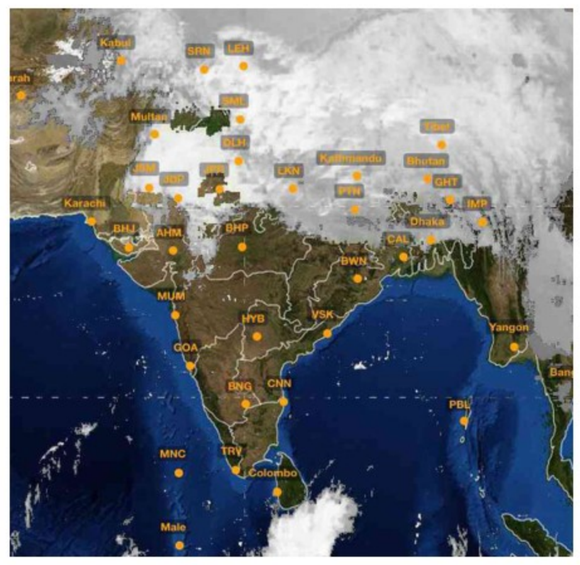
The Centre and the Income Tax Department, however, stated that there was no restriction on sharing of information.

The Centre said there was "public interest" in calling for the probe as the allegation levelled against the companies under investigations (CUIs) was that the CMRL, on the basis of bogus bills, had made payments to Exalogic Solutions. "This itself involves public interest," it said.

"The use of a corporate entity for facilitating corruption can be termed as a transaction out of the purview of definition of public interest," the Centre said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam. Dense to very dense fog conditions likely in some parts of Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	12.8	Kozhikode	—	34.2	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	29.5	16.6	Kurnool	—	29.4	19.3
Aizawl	—	25.8	10.0	Lucknow	—	23.0	7.0
Allahabad	—	23.8	6.2	Madurai	—	30.2	22.1
Bengaluru	—	24.8	18.2	Mangaluru	—	33.1	22.6
Bhopal	—	27.0	8.5	Mumbai	—	30.2	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.0	13.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	18.9	8.0	New Delhi	—	17.0	7.7
Chennai	—	29.1	25.3	Patna	—	22.6	10.1
Coimbatore	—	28.7	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.1	26.2
Dehradun	—	20.0	7.2	Puducherry	—	28.2	22.5
Gangtok	—	15.4	7.3	Pune	—	30.7	17.9
Goa	—	33.0	22.0	Raipur	—	29.2	13.1
Guwahati	—	25.8	10.6	Ranchi	—	24.5	7.6
Hubballi	—	30.0	19.0	Shillong	—	19.8	6.6
Hyderabad	—	27.4	18.4	Shimla	—	16.5	6.2
Imphal	—	23.3	6.1	Srinagar	—	5.8	-3.6
Jaipur	—	15.6	8.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.7	24.2
Kochi	—	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi	0.6	28.9	22.6
Kohima	—	17.2	8.4	Vijayawada	—	28.4	19.0
Kolkata	—	25.2	12.4	Visakhapatnam	—	27.6	19.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday —

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	21	7	192	158	
Bengaluru	5	6	10	131	70	
Chennai	5	4	—	125	71	
Delhi	3	24	9	267	152	
Hyderabad	2	19	8	166	110	
Kolkata	3	30	27	165	481	
Lucknow	—	38	5	251	428	
Mumbai	1	20	6	167	107	
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	4	25	6	178	108	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala Police arrest 14 for sexually abusing minor girl

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Pathanamthitta district police have launched a probe into a series of incidents in which over 60 persons abused a Dalit minor girl over a period of five years.

Nine persons were arrested on Saturday in connection with the case while the police arrested five persons on Friday.

The police have so far registered five FIRs across two police stations. These cases are based on statements from the survivor, aged 18 now, who was allegedly subjected to abuse multiple times since the age of 13.

It is understood that the police are now gathering evidence on all individuals involved in the abuse. Details of the new FIRs and arrests are being handed over to the Child Welfare Committee. All those arrested so far are aged between 19 and 30.

Investigations have revealed that the girl was abused by 62 individuals, starting with her neighbour. The accused also include friends of her father, the coaches who had trained the survivor, a sportsperson, and her fellow athletes.

Over 60 persons have abused the Dalit girl over a period of five years

According to the girl's statement, she used her father's mobile phone to communicate with the perpetrators. The police have identified about 40 individuals by verifying phone records and from the information in a note in her possession. Her parents were completely unaware of the abuse.

Since the incidents occurred when she was a minor, sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act will be invoked against the accused.

The Pathanamthitta Child Welfare Committee (CWC) has referred the victim to a psychologist for more in-depth counselling.

The issue came to light during a counselling conducted by the CWC after the girl's teachers noticed significant changes in her behaviour and informed the panel. The committee then notified the police, who initiated an investigation. The girl is currently housed in a shelter home.

Given the number of perpetrators involved, this may be the largest case of sexual abuse against a minor in the State's history, officials said.

Case against P.C. George for hate speech

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

The Kerala Police have registered a case against BJP leader P.C. George for an alleged hate speech.

The action follows a complaint filed by the Erattupetta municipal committee of the Muslim Youth League, accusing Mr. George of making communally charged remarks about Muslims during a discussion on a news channel.

Allu Arjun

Actor Allu Arjun gets relief in bail conditions in stampede case

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Actor Allu Arjun, who is on conditional bail in the Sandhya theatre stampede case, has been permitted by the Nampally court to travel abroad and the court also exempted him from appearing at the Chikkadpally Police Station every Sunday.

The actor had requested the exemption from personal appearance every Sunday for security reasons.

He was required to appear before the police, a condition set by the IX Additional Chief Judicial Majistrate Court at Nampally while granting bail to him in the December 4 incident at Sandhya theatre.

Chaos broke out on December 4 when the actor came to watch *Pushpa 2* premiere at Sandhya theatre. During the stampede a 35-year old woman, Revathi, was killed and her son was grievously injured.

Bail condition

As per the bail condition, the actor was to appear before the investigating officer every Sunday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for two months or till the chargesheet was filed.

'Seven special courts will be set up to hear sexual assault cases'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday announced that seven special courts would hear cases pertaining to sexual assault on women. They would be set up in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchi, and Chennai and one of its neighbouring districts.

In his reply to the Governor's address in the Assembly, Mr. Stalin said that a special committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police would be set up to expedite trials in sexual assault cases in all the districts.

The Tamil Nadu Prison Rules, 1983, would be amended to ensure that persons accused in such cases were not granted bail, he added.

CM Stalin says a special committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police will be formed to expedite trials in sexual assault cases in all the districts.

Earlier, the Assembly passed the Criminal Laws (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Police shoot two in leg, arrest five involved in kidnapping

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In an early hour operation, the Uttara Kannada police shot two in the leg when they were trying to flee with ransom money along with three others after attacking police personnel. Three policemen, including a police inspector, sustained injuries and five have been arrested.

The shootout happened at 4 a.m. on Saturday when the Yellapur police were chasing men involved in kidnapping of Mundgod-based gambler-turned-businessmen Zameer Ahmed Dargahwale.

The gang had abducted Mr. Dargahwale on January 9 demanding a ransom of ₹30 lakh but had released him on Friday after receiving ₹18 lakh. The Mundgod police tracked down a few persons on Friday and their arrest led to more names being revealed.

Tracing the miscreants, the Mundgod police chased them from Khalghatgi and alerted the Yellapur police. On seeing the Yellapur police at Dauginal Village near Yellapur road, the accused while trying to flee, rammed their car into a tree at Khatwala cross on Yellapur-Haliyal road.

The accused then attacked the police with sharp weapons and chili powder and injured CPI Mundgod Ranganath Neelamnavar, PSI Parshuram, and Yellapur police personnel Shafi Ahmed.

The police fired two shots in the air as a warning, but when it did not deter the accused, two were shot in the leg.

The main accused Rahim Jafar Saab, 27, and Ajay Fakirappa Madli, 25, are being treated at Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences, while the injured police were treated at a hospital in Yellapur. The other three accused are Sagar Kalal, Dadapeer Allabaksh, and Hassan Moinuddin Khilledar from Dharwad.

According to the police, Mr. Dhargawale was also a habitual offender earlier. He has been accused of throwing party for criminals released from prison and then using them. Of late, he had turned a businessman and reportedly amassed huge money. SP of Uttara Kannada Narayan said the gang led by Rahim had planned the kidnap reportedly on December 3 and had executed it on January 9.

Wet weather to continue over T.N. till January 16

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal would induce wet weather over different parts of the State till January 16. RMC, Chennai, has issued a yellow weather alert as heavy rainfall is set to cover more places during Pongal.

Heavy rainfall would sweep through the region from delta districts and interior parts in the north on Sunday and Monday to southern districts on January 14 and 15. A cyclonic circulation over Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal would revive fairly widespread rainfall across the State on Sunday.

According to the RMC, rainfall of moderate intensity, which will begin in the coastal belt of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on Sunday, will spread to interior districts and then move to the south in the subsequent days. While delta districts, including Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai, are likely to receive heavy rainfall up to 12 cm on Sunday, interior districts in the north such as Vellore, Ranipet and Tiruvannamalai will get heavy rainfall on Monday.

South Tamil Nadu may have to prepare for fairly widespread rainfall on January 14 and 15, with Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Ramanathapuram likely to receive heavy rainfall on those two days. Chennai, too, is likely to record showers of light to moderate intensity in some areas on Sunday. Rainfall cover and intensity may begin to reduce from January 16.

A.P. eyeing investments in renewable energy sector at WEF summit, says Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh would attract sizable investments at the World Economic Forum-2025 scheduled at Davos in Switzerland from January 20 and felt that a significant chunk of the investments would flow into the renewable energy sector.

In a brief chat with mediapersons on Saturday, Mr. Naidu asserted that the Davos trip would help in "marketing the investment opportunities in the State" by connecting with global companies and that the government was striving to realise the potential of green energy and biofuels. Investments amounting to ₹10 lakh crore were expected to be made in green energy.

N. Chandrababu Naidu

Electric mobility

The Chief Minister said the State would have pothole-free roads by the end of next month, and, as part of the emphasis on electric mobility, the government was going to set up 5,000 EV charging stations in the coming months.

Mr. Naidu also said the government was trying to implement welfare schemes more efficiently.

Sabarimala gearing up for Makaravilakku

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

To ensure the safety of pilgrims flocking to Sabarimala to witness the celestial light Makarajyothi during the Makaravilakku festival, authorities have implemented extensive arrangements.

Pathanamthitta District Collector S. Premkrishnan has announced strict limits on the number of devotees allowed at key viewpoints. Panjippara and Ilavunkal will each accommodate up to 1,000 pilgrims and Nellimala, 800. Attathode West will host 300 devotees and Attathode East, 2,500. The Pampa Hilltop, the largest viewing area, will hold 8,000 devotees. For safety reasons, entry to the Ayyanmala viewpoint has been prohibited.

Taking stock: State Police Chief Sheikh Darvesh Sahib review the arrangements at Sabarimala on Saturday. LEJU KAMAL

Each location will have medical support teams on standby, complemented by adequate parking facilities. As the festival concludes, 300 buses of the State transport utility will ferry devotees from Pampa to Nilackal. To manage the anticipated influx, the area has been divided into 13 zones.

The Pathanamthitta District Medical Office has established a control room operating from Monday for the next 72 hours. Devotees can reach the control room at 0468-2222642 and 0468-2228220. An additional fleet of 12 ambulances has been arranged, supplementing the existing 25. Seventeen emergency medical centres have been set up between Pampa and the Sannidhanam.

To bolster security, the Travancore Devaswom Board Vigilance has installed 245 advanced surveillance cameras from Marakkootam to the Sannidhanam.

State Police Chief Sheikh Darvesh Sahib, who visited Sabarimala on Saturday, said 5,000 police personnel would ensure safety and order during the Makaravilakku festival on Tuesday.

From Page One

3 more bodies retrieved from Assam mine

The search operation at the coal mine disaster site in Kalamati village in Dima Hasoa district of Assam has been on for several days. RITU RAJ KONWAR

A few days ago, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the mine *prima facie* appeared illegal. Later, he said the mine had been abandoned 12 years ago, after being run by the State's Mines and Minerals Department.

A case connected with illegal mining was registered at the Umrangso police station on Tuesday. The leaseholder of the mine, identified as Punish Nunisa, was subsequently arrested.

The second arrest was made on Friday after the police caught Hannan Laskar, a financier of the operations, from the 3 Kilo area, the nearest major habitation from the mine. Opposition parties said the wife of Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Executive Member of the autonomous tribal council that rules Dima Hasao, is a major stakeholder in the mining operations. A reaction from the couple is awaited.

Assam Congress MP and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Dima Hasao incident and rampant illegal rat-hole coal mining despite the National Green Tribunal's blanket ban in April 2014.

'BJP attempting to enrol fake voters in New Delhi'

"From a two-bedroom flat at 212 VP House, applications have been made for 24 voter registrations. It is absurd and reeks of deliberate manipulation," Mr. Singh said.

He said filing fake applications amounted to tampering with the electoral rolls. "This calculated assault on democratic integrity shows the BJP's desperation to rig elections," Mr. Singh said.

He alleged that over 20 names have been sent from the address of a three-bedroom flat, 20 from a basement in Jor Bagh and 21 from a small shop in the Sangli Mess area, apart from official residences of BJP MPs. "All these addresses are not in some distant part of the country but under the very nose of the EC office," Mr. Singh said. He urged the media to check how many voters from these addresses exercised their franchise in the Lok Sabha election held recently and how many fresh applications were submitted in the past 15 days.

Many trapped in Kannauj station collapse

Besides the seven people grievously injured, at least 16 suffered minor injuries. "Three injured in the railway station accident were discharged from the hospital, while the treatment of 13 workers is going on in the district hospital," an official said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to expedite relief efforts. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav asked the government to provide adequate compensation to the injured and speed up the relief work. "The government should provide the best possible treatment to the injured and also give them adequate compensation," Mr. Yadav said in a post on X.

Beed murder: eight accused face charges under MCOCA

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

While the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) has been invoked against the eight accused in the Beed Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh murder case on Saturday, political leaders have raised concerns over Walmik Karad not being charged under the Act.

Mr. Karad, a close aid of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Minister Dhananjay Munde, has not been booked under the MCOCA as he was arrested in the extortion case, according to the police.

The MCOCA was invoked after the investigation revealed the involvement of organised crime syndicates in the murder.

The Special Investigation Team invoked the MCOCA at a time when all-party protests have been organised in various districts to demand justice for the family of Santosh Deshmukh.

On Saturday, a *Jan Akrosh Morcha* was organised in Dharashiv district of Maharashtra, where the Deshmukh family, political leader Suresh Das, and Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil also joined the rally.

The protesters and political leaders demanded booking of Mr. Karad under the MCOCA and also the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Himachal CM points out troubling trend of synthetic drugs

Sukhu addresses conference on drug trafficking by the NCB; Punjab CM seeks Centre's financial support to set up special court for drug menace

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Enduring fight: Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu during the virtual meeting on 'Drug trafficking and national security' on Saturday. ANI

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday underscored a troubling trend towards synthetic drugs, even as his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, sought the Union government's intervention to provide financial assistance to Punjab for setting up special Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) courts to check the drug menace, pointing to the problem impacting the socio-economic balance in Punjab.

Both Chief Ministers were virtually addressing the regional conference on "Drug trafficking and national security", organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. The conference focused on addressing the nexus between drug trafficking and national security, with particular attention to eight northern States and Union Territories.

Mr. Sukhu said the NDPS cases had risen by 340% over the past decade, escalating from approximately 500 cases in 2012 to 2,200 in 2023. "Additionally, the percentage of cases involving heroin has doubled, rising from 29% in 2020 to 50% in 2024.

Pointing out a troubling trend towards synthetic drugs, which are not only more potent and addictive but also harder to control owing to their chemical composition, Mr. Sukhu emphasised the necessity of a comprehensive approach to tackle drug trafficking, particularly in inter-State border areas, which have become hotspots for illicit activities.

Mr. Mann urged the Union government to give a one-time financial assistance of ₹600 crore to the State to create special NDPS courts and recruit public prosecutors and support staff.

He said 35,000 NDPS cases had been pending for sessions trial as on January 1, 2025, adding that at the present rate of disposal, on average a sessions court takes seven years to complete the trial of pending case leaving aside all newly added cases.

Mr. Mann said that the drug problem in Punjab was impacting the socio-economic balance.

He added that the narco-terror drug trade business in Punjab had links with the international cartels that smuggle drugs from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries into the State.

Trade unions slam L&T CEO's remark on 90-hour work week

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The central trade unions on Saturday condemned a statement by the chairman and managing director of Larsen & Toubro, S.N. Subrahmanyan, favouring a 90-hour work week with employees working on Sundays too "rather than staring at" their spouses at home.

Though L&T later said that the statement reflected a larger ambition for making India a developed nation, it drew flak from various sections of society, including women's rights activists.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) said Mr. Subrahmanyan's statement was similar to the "satanic statement" earlier made by the Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, seeking an increase in working hours to 70 hours a week through statutory measures.

'Rogue competition'

"It seems that there is a rogue competition among the corporate messiahs to rinse the blood and sweat of Indian workers and they are in active connivance and collaboration with the corporate-communal regime in governance by Modi-led NDA [National Democratic Alliance]," CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said in a statement.

Mr. Sen said Indian workers, even permanent employees in the formal sector, were deployed for much longer hours of work compared with more productive countries, including China, Europe and even the U.S. "The stretching of working hours is very disastrously impacting upon the health and social life of Indian workers," Mr. Sen said.

The All India Working Women's Forum of the AITUC termed Mr. Subramanyan's statement patriarchal, scandalous, and condemnable.

"Mr. Subramanyan dehumanises women by reducing them to be mere spectacles. His statement disrespects women's autonomy and agency," the Forum's convenor Vahida Nizam said.

'Policy is against principles of human dignity'

NEW DELHI
Dattopant Thengadi foundation (DTF), an affiliate for the Rashtriya Swayamsecak Sangh (RSS), which works in the field of social, economic, and labour policy in India, has condemned Larsen & Toubro (L&T) chairperson S. Subrahmanyan's advocacy of a 90-hour work week.
In a communique, the DTF says that such a policy contradicts the principles of quality of life and human dignity that are fundamental to a progressive society.

With retreat, Meghalaya Cabinet goes places

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Conrad K. Sangma, Ministers, and officials with Hally War who initiated the weaving of a living root bridge in Siej. @CMO_MEGHALYA

For the first time, trekking became part of the Cabinet meeting drill for the Ministers in Meghalaya.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma led most of his Cabinet colleagues and officers of various departments to meet a sexagenarian who wove a living root bridge across a hill river to Siej, his village.

The trek for more than 10 minutes after an hour's bus drive from Sohra was a component of a two-day Cabinet retreat, a meeting mixed with travel and adventure.

More popular as Cherrapunjee, Sohra is one of the rainiest places on earth and about 54 km southwest of the the State's capital Shillong. Siej is under the Shella-Bholaganj Block in the East Khasi Hills district.

"The trek to Siej was to see the Umkar Living Root bridge and meet Hally War, the man who initiated the weaving of the living root bridge, an essential part of the local culture for more than 300 years," Mr. Sangma said.

Mr. War, the Siej village headman for the last 40 years, said he began weaving the root bridge when he was 10 years old. "I saw people facing difficulties in crossing the river. I remembered my grandparents sharing stories about the strength of the living roots and decided to build a lasting and sustainable bridge," he said.

Mr. Sangma said the root bridges remain a symbol of sustainable architecture and community-driven development – a template his National People's Party-led alliance government intends to follow in promoting tourism and other sectors.

"This root bridge shows the patience and dedication required to create something sustainable. It's a testament to the wisdom passed down through generations," he added.

During the visit, the Chief Minister announced new infrastructure projects to improve connectivity in the region, including the construction of new roads and the upgrading of school buildings.

"The government is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities," he said.

He also explained the idea behind the Cabinet retreat, touted by the government as a first of its kind.

"We are charting the Vision 2032 for the growth and development of Meghalaya when it attains 60 years of statehood," he said. On the first day of the retreat on Friday, the Cabinet approved CM-Assure, a market intervention scheme to support small and marginal farmers by guaranteeing fixed-price procurement during market price decline to prevent distress sales. The State government budgeted a revolving corpus fund of ₹100 crore.

Among the other decisions taken were regularisation of 850 employees who were given *ad hoc* appointments before 2007, approval of the Meghalaya Factories (Amendment) Rules of 2025 to facilitate ease of doing business, and an upward revision of minimum wages for unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled workers.

Delhi HC rejects bail to IS associate in terror case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has refused to grant bail to an alleged IS member in a terror case by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over radicalisation of youth using cyberspace.

The court rejected the bail plea by Mohammad Heydaitullah, who allegedly used Telegram groups to propagate the ideology of the terrorist group in India and recruit other persons.

The accused challenged a trial court order declining any relief on the ground that mere association or support to a terrorist organisation would not constitute an offence under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The court rejected the contention saying Heydaitullah, a qualified MBA graduate working at an IT company in Gurugram, was not a "passive" supporter as material showed that he advocated "jihad in order to establish Khilafat" even through violent means.

"The Appellant admittedly in 2018 had taken an oath (Bayath) in the name of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Abu al-Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is admittedly a well-known leader of ISIS and as per the chargesheet had declared formation of 'caliphate' in June 2014," said the court in its January 10 judgement.

"ISIS had been declared to be a terrorist organisation and judicial notice can be taken of the fact that the world at large knows about the activities of ISIS... Appellant was well aware of the nature of activities of ISIS," it added. Dismissing the plea, the court said the bar on grant of bail under the UAPA was clearly applicable in the case.

Health professionals urged to communicate proactively to allay concerns on HMPV

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The need for public health professionals to proactively reach out to people with the right information rather than waiting for them to become concerned about information circulating on social media was emphasised during a webinar that sought to put out facts about Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV).

The webinar, "HMPV: differentiating fact from fiction", was organised by *The Hindu* and Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, as part of their 'Healthy India, Happy India' initiative on Saturday. Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and former chief scientist at World Health Organization (WHO), emphasised the need to create more scientific literacy and scientific awareness to avoid the kind of panic that was seen when news of HMPV came out.

Bernhard Schwartländer, epidemiologist and former WHO official, observed that not much thought has gone into developing new ways of communicating more proactively.

"It is no good to wait for the public to be concerned about information circulating on social media platforms when it is very difficult to then actually overcome it. As public health workers, we have to be much more proactive to reach out to people to explain what is going on. It is not good enough to have scientific statements hidden on websites of the national centre for disease control because that is not where people will look every day. We have to learn to do better to avoid such concerns," he said.

On the HMPV situation in China, he said that the country has a strong surveillance system and what they have seen so far is an expected increase in respiratory infections, which until now is somewhat lower when compared to the same time in the previous years. The distribution of the viruses was also not dissimilar to previous outbreaks with the influenza virus being clearly in the lead, and a whole range of other viruses coming behind.

'Not a new virus'

"We have been exposed to HMPV for a long time. It is not a new virus, and so, we have immunity, and most children are exposed to it. It is a part of the common respiratory infections that children get," Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said. She added that HMPV is considered a mild infection causing upper respiratory illnesses.

She stressed the need to take the 'One Health' approach considering the increasing risk of viruses and pathogens jumping from one species to another. It is important to understand the interconnections between various species and human beings, she added.

The webinar, moderated by Ramya Kannan, Health Editor, *The Hindu*, featured an exclusive question and answer session for subscribers.

Mob destroys Assam Rifles' makeshift camp in Manipur

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

They were angry over restrictions on transportation of timber, say officials

A mob on Saturday stormed and destroyed a makeshift camp of Assam Rifles in Manipur's Kamjong district over alleged harassment and restrictions on transportation of timber, officials said.

Members of the group that attacked the camp in Hongbei area belonged to Kasom Khullen block of the Naga majority district.

Tensions escalated on Saturday when the Assam Rifles soldiers allegedly barred transportation of timber intended for construction of houses in Kasom Khullen, officials said.

Assam Rifles personnel used tear gas shells and fired in the air to disperse the protesters, they said. The mob later destroyed the makeshift camp of the paramilitary force and demanded that they be removed from the area.

No casualty was reported in the melee.

The Assam Rifles is one of the Central forces deployed in parts of Manipur, which has been in the grip of ethnic violence between Kukis and Meiteis, that left over 250 people killed and thousands homeless since May 2023.

‘West Bank a cauldron that can explode any moment’

The Israeli Indologist says a third Palestinian *intifada* is likely at any moment, adding that Israel has a dysfunctional political system; he emphasises the worsening settler violence in the West Bank and suggests a confederation as a potential path to peace between Israelis and Palestinians; the conversation also goes into the systemic changes in 16th century southern India in major arenas

INTERVIEW

David Shulman

Stanly Johny

David Shulman, Israeli Indologist, poet and peace activist, says the West Bank has witnessed enhanced settler violence ever since the latest war between Israel and Hamas broke out. Today’s Israel looks like the South Africa at the height of Apartheid, “just a few years before the system collapsed”, he says. Mr. Shulman speaks about his works on southern India, the crisis in West Asia and the prospects for peace. Edited excerpts:

You have written about ‘systemic change’ in 16th century South India. The 16th century was also a period where you saw, in Europe, the Reformation, the Thirty Years’ War, and the rise of the Westphalian system. Do you see any parallels between the southern India of the 16th century and Europe?

I think in both cases, there was a systemic change, a civilisational change, you could say. In Europe, that was the great watershed when the Catholic Church split into Protestants and Catholics and they went to war with one another, and that was also the time of the emerging imperial autocracies like the Habsburgs in Vienna and Spain, and also the French. That eventually produced the modern revolutions in France and in America, and later in Russia. It happened here, in India, in a very different way, in an indigenous way that had nothing to do with the influence of what was happening in Europe.

Systemic change means that in all of the major arenas, there are substantial structural changes – in the social realm, in the economic sphere, in the political domain, for example. We had a new kind of South Indian States, with a new mode of political thinking, and new kinds of political legitimisation. And in the expressive domains, that is, literature, music, graphic arts, sculpture, architecture, theatre, you can see that there is a whole new world.

A new conceptual world, a new understanding of how the mind works, a new understanding of what it means to be a human being. You begin to see these new themes emerging and crystallising.

You have also written about ‘newness’. Can you explain that?

Many people, for example Sheldon Pollock, actually have written about *navata* or newness. In early modern times, before the massive intrusion of the European powers, there was a palpable sense of novelty. Suddenly, people are talking about something being and feeling really new. This is also true of music, literature, and painting. There is an amazing sense of new discoveries. So, in music for example, in Carnatic music, which was formalised – you could say ‘grammaticalised’ – in 16th century Thanjavur, we begin to see an emerging corpus of Carnatic compositions, with strong introspective elements. In literature, we have what we call *prabandha* texts. This is something quite new. A *prabandha* text is a self-contained book, usually not too long, that can be recited over a period of maybe a week or two. It’s meant to be read from the beginning via the middle to the end. That’s a rather new thing in South India. The new *prabandha* forms demand sequential reading, that comes with an acquired newness of taste and themes.

AKHILA EASWARAN

How do you look at the developments in West Asia in light of Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack and Israel’s subsequent war on Gaza?

Well, we are in a very deep crisis. And that includes the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The Hamas atrocities of October 7 were unparalleled in Israel’s history. Now the war has gone on for some 15 months and shows no sign of stopping.

On the West Bank, we have Israeli colonisation that has been going on for several decades. All of the Israeli settlements, without exception, sit upon stolen Palestinian land, and the settler population has grown to several lakhs planted in the midst of a Palestinian population on the West Bank of some two-and-a-half million. The extremist settlers... are driving the Palestinians on the West Bank into a situation of horrible precariousness.

There is a system in place that supports this. That means the Army, the police, the military courts, the Israeli media, public and social media, and the government, which funds and supports the settlements.

The goal is to take as much Palestinian land as they possibly can with as few Palestinian people living on it as possible. That is been true for a long time. But since October 7, this situation has exacerbated enormously.

In addition to settler violence, there are military operations in Jenin and Nablus. The West Bank has become a cauldron that could explode at any moment. I think it is extremely likely that there will be a third *intifada* [uprising], worse than the first two. And it could happen at any time, because the Palestinian people are not going anywhere, and their life is no longer bearable.

States generally are violent. Still, you might see internal and external constraints on states. Do you think it doesn’t work in the case of Israel?

I think it works to some extent. There are still some constraints, including on the Army operations in Gaza. But the figures of killed and wounded are shocking. In the northern part of Gaza, there are no buildings left standing, and the population has been displaced into tent cities farther south.

We have some two million people living in tents. There is not enough food, although there are attempts to bring in food. There is no clean water to drink. Obviously, no electricity. It’s cold. And the shooting and the bombing continue. In the north, to make it even worse, now that they have cleared out most of the population, the Army is paving roads and putting up military camps. It looks like the government wants to stay there permanently, to annex it, either by some act of the Knesset or just de facto.

What is the way out, for Israel and Palestine?

I can tell you the way-not-out – that is constant, eternal war. The only real way out is some kind of settlement with the Palestinians who are our neighbours. The only way to make life viable for everybody, Israelis as well as Palestinians, is to reach an agreement in which the Palestinians have some form of political framework which will allow them to realise their own cultural and civilisational ambitions. For the Israelis, for the Jews, we’ve got that, we have a State that embodies some form of collective identities. It’s not a very effective State, in many ways, but it’s there. But Palestinians don’t have any such framework.

We have a dysfunctional political system, which is like a crazy jigsaw puzzle. This structural situation perpetuates the logic where the extreme right has complete control over what is happening. It’s an absurd situation. [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu has devoted his life to preventing the emergence of a Palestinian State. There are two things that he really cares about. That is one, and the second is the perpetuation of his own government. And they are linked.

I think what should emerge someday, somehow, is some system that could be like a confederation, in which the Palestinians would have control over their own lives and their own security. It would have to be a demilitarised state. Israelis would have control over their lives, and there would be some overarching framework addressing security, policies, social services and everyday needs. I’m not saying it would be easy to achieve it. But people said that about Ireland. South Africa is another example. It is not a happy place, but nonetheless, the Apartheid was overturned. I think sometimes that today, we in Israel may be experiencing something like South Africa at the height of the Apartheid system. Just a few years before the system collapsed.

BJP releases second list of 29 candidates for Delhi polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released its second list of 29 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly election. The party fielded Kapil Mishra, a former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA, replacing incumbent Mohan Singh Bisht in Karawal Nagar.

Joining the ranks of sons of former Chief Minister of Delhi in the fray, Harish Khurana has been fielded from Moti Nagar.

With the second list, the BJP has so far named candidates for 58 seats for the election to the 70-member Delhi Assembly. The election is scheduled to be held on February 5 and the votes will be counted on February 8.

Additionally, the BJP features five women in the second list including Deepti Indora from Matia Mahal and Neelam Pahalwan from Najafgarh. The party has fielded a total of seven women in the two lists.

Abhay Verma, MLA, has been retained from Laxmi Nagar. The party has replaced two out of the seven sitting MLAs. The first list of the party featured eight turncoats. BJP leader Karnail Singh will contest against the AAP’s former Minister Satyendar Jain from Shakur Basti. The party also features a range of sitting MCD councillors including Gajendra Daral, who joined the party after winning as an Independent candidate in MCD polls from Mundka. Several candidates featured in the list include those who have lost polls in 2013, 2015, and 2020.

The BJP, which last held the reins of Delhi in 1998 and won three and eight seats in the 2015 and 2020 elections, is looking to secure a majority in the 70-member Assembly. The AAP has already announced candidates for all seats, while the Congress has released 48 names.

Delhi welfare schemes will not be taken away if BJP comes to power, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the Jhuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan, at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium on Saturday. ANI

Addressing slum residents in his first rally in Delhi since the announcement of the February 5 Assembly election, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated on Saturday that welfare schemes in the capital would not stop if the BJP came to power. He promised that the BJP would better them, though he did not specify which schemes would be improved.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the Jhuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan held at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium on Saturday.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been attacking the BJP, warning that if it comes to power, it will stop welfare schemes, including those providing free electricity and water in Delhi.

However, Mr. Shah vowed: “No welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped if the BJP forms the government in the city.” He also promised that if his party wins the election, every slum dweller will be provided a house under the PM Awas Yojana.

The residents of the capital’s slums will throw away the ‘*AAP-da*’ and become liberators of Delhi, Mr. Shah said.

The Minister said that despite its tall promises of clean water, good education, and a garbage-free city, the AAP government has forced slum dwellers to live in pathetic conditions, with dirty water, air pollution, broken roads, and garbage.

Congratulating the Delhi unit of the BJP for fighting against the AAP on behalf of the slum dwellers, Mr. Shah said, “Our leaders spent several nights in the JJ [*jhuggi jhopri*] clusters and made a list of all your trouble and submitted it to PM [Narendra] Modi. And keeping this in mind, we will bring our *Sankalp Patra* [poll manifesto], which the BJP will make sure is fulfilled because, unlike the AAP, all our promises are done.”

The AAP is a disaster, Mr. Shah said, alleging that while India has progressed over the past 10 years, Delhi has stayed stagnant. Delhi has become hell because of ‘*AAP-da*’, he added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kejriwal, in a post on X said: “Today Amit Shah ji abused me and the people of Delhi a lot. The people of Delhi will answer this in the elections. Tomorrow morning I will hold a press conference from a ‘jhuggi basti’ which they have planned to demolish after the elections. I will expose the dirty intentions of BJP with full evidence.”

AAP MLA dies in ‘accidental’ firing from his own pistol

Press Trust of India
LUDHIANA

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi died of a gunshot injury on Saturday, with his family members and the State party chief saying he was hit by a bullet that got fired accidentally from his pistol when he was cleaning it.

Joint Commissioner of Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said the bullet pierced Mr. Gogi’s temple and he was rushed to the local Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The police said the case is under investigation.

Several political leaders including Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann expressed shock over Mr. Gogi’s death. “Got the sad news of the demise of our party’s respected MLA from Ludhiana West Gurpreet Gogi ji. Heartfelt condolences to the family in this hour of grief,” Mr. Mann said in a post on X.

Mr. Gogi joined the AAP in 2022 after quitting the Congress. He had been with the Congress for almost 22 years.

Mr. Gogi (58) is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Shiv Sena (UBT) to go solo in upcoming municipal elections, says Sanjay Raut

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Amid the brewing tensions in the INDIA bloc, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has faced another setback, with Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday announcing that the party intended to run solo for the municipal corporation elections in Mumbai and Nagpur.

“With Uddhav Thackeray’s instructions, we have decided to fight solo in upcoming municipal elections. It is also good for party workers as they were not getting an opportunity to contest elections due to the alliance,” he said.

Mr. Raut said he had discussed the matter with the Nagpur unit chief, Pramod Manmode.

His statement comes after the blame game began in the MVA over the defeat in the Assembly election.

Sanjay Raut

Responding to Mr. Raut’s comments, Mumbai Congress president and MP Varsha Gaikwad said the Congress would make its own decisions concerning the local body elections.

She agreed with Mr. Raut about party workers not getting the opportunity to fight elections. “Every party wants to grow, and nothing is wrong with that. Fewer seats were allotted to the party in Mumbai in previous elections than expected. I will convey the feelings of the workers to the senior leadership,” Ms. Gaikwad said. She added that the matter will be discussed with Mr. Thackeray and his decision will be respected.

Mr. Raut also slammed Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar for blaming him for the delay in seat sharing and said, “Was Shiv Sena (UBT) in West Bengal? Why did they lose in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir? Why Congress is losing across India? In an alliance, the partners have to accept the compromising role and make adjustments. Those who are not able to do it; have no right to be in the alliance.”

“If they want to go solo then the Congress’s way is also clear. Congress and NCP(SP) will take this alliance ahead and fight the elections,” Mr. Wadettiwar said.

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Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes

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(IT Practitioner)
Online Training

GST COURSE CONTENT: 1)Gst Concepts & Transition, 2)Registration, 3)Scope, 4)Time Of Supply, 5)Input Tax Credit, 6)Refund, 7)Eway Bill, 8)Returns.
IT COURSE CONTENT: 1)Residential Status, 2)Basis and Scope of charge, 3)Salary income House property income, 4)Capital Gains, 5)Deductions from Income, 6)Income from other sources, 7)Returns filing and forms, 8)Presumptive taxation.

GST (Week-ends): Date : 18, 19 & 25, 26th Jan 25 | Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M | Fees : 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
Income Tax (Week-days): Date : 20, 21, 22, 23rd Jan 25 | Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M | Fees : 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
e-mail:- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online RWC-01/2025 Letter No.- 38 Date:- 08/01/2025

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road works.
2. Class of contractor
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
c) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.
3. Time for Completion : As specified in the Column-7of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC-01/25	17.01.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	06.02.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.	06.02.2025 up to 02.00 P.M.	07.02.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
O-1205 25097/11/0012/2425

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors

All 2ndCall –Two Bid system Tenders Tender No. & Description of Material SITC of capacitor banks -	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0601/0125 [RFX No.7000034796] voltage ratings of 33kv & 132kV---235 MVAR at 19Nos. of EHV Substations in Phase-V [5.4] under Amravati & Nagpur zone.	1798.20 / 25000.00	22.01.2025 17:00 / 22.01.2025 17:15
SP/T-0602/0125 [RFX No.7000034797] voltage ratings of 33kv ---175 MVAR at 18 Nos. of EHV Substations in Phase-V [5.5] under Chattrapati Sambhajinagar zone.	1531.90 / 25000.00	22.01.2025 17:00 / 22.01.2025 17:15
SP/T-0603/0125 [RFX No.7000034798] voltage ratings of 22kv & 33kV---170 MVAR at 16 Nos. of EHV Substations in Phase-V [5.6] under Karad zone.	1304.06 / 25000.00	23.01.2025 17:00 / 23.01.2025 17:15
SP/T-0604/0125 [RFX No.7000034799] voltage ratings 33kV---255 MVAR at 14 Nos. of EHV Substations in Phase-V [5.7] Nashik Zone.	1318.36 / 25000.00	23.01.2025 17:00 / 23.01.2025 17:15
SP/T-0605/0125 [RFX No.7000034810] voltage ratings of 33kV---110 MVAR at 06 Nos. of EHV Substations in Phase-V [5.8] under Pune Zone.	747.04 / 25000.00	24.01.2025 17:00 / 24.01.2025 17:15

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Ph.No 8329909813
Tel. No.022-26474211/022-26472131 Extn.2491/2493.
Email:secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in, dyeegrp6@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

INBRIEF

BPSC sends legal notice to JSP founder Prashant Kishor

The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) has sent a legal notice to Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor with regard to the allegations levelled by him on the commission. The commission has demanded evidence within seven days on the allegations of corruption levelled against the commission by him and his team. While speaking to *The Hindu,* BPSC secretary Satya Prakash Sharma said, "It was necessary to send him a legal notice because the kind of allegation he has levelled against the BPSC was unpardonable. The kind of atmosphere he has created was sending the wrong message among the genuine candidates."

30 fraudsters held in Jaipur under 'Operation Cyber Shield'

In a major campaign under the ongoing 'Operation Cyber Shield', the Rajasthan Police on Saturday arrested 30 alleged cyber fraudsters after searches at 40 places in five police station areas of Jaipur. The accused had conducted transactions worth ₹30 crore to defraud the unsuspecting people. Besides indulging in nefarious activities, the cybercriminals were preparing a new batch of fraudsters to cheat the people with new methods. Deputy Commissioner of Police Amit Kumar told *The Hindu* that three of the fraudsters had cheated people in the guise of monks and astrologers offering to conduct rituals for them.

Two dead in accident at construction site in Raipur

Two workers were killed while six sustained injuries when a centering frame on an under-construction building collapsed here on Saturday. The accident was reported around 3 p.m. on VIP Street, metres away from the VIP Road, a stretch that connects the city to the Raipur airport. The residential building has three multi-storey towers, each at a different stage of construction. While the project is run by a prominent construction firm from the State, those at the site said that it is subcontracted to various contractors. The work to remove the debris from the site was going on till late Saturday night.

Manufacturers of medical devices seek MRP monitoring

Medical device manufacturers have called for monitoring of maximum retail prices (MRP) of imported medical devices into India so that domestic consumers can get affordable rates. In its pre-Budget memorandum to the Union Ministry of Finance, the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) has highlighted that the government's efforts to reduce import duty on devices goes in vain since consumers/patients pay "10-30 times the landed price of imported devices". AiMeD, an umbrella association of Indian manufacturers of medical devices, said that the current scenario is "against Indian manufacturers in every way".

SUDOKU

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9				1			5	4
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	7		1		3		4	
	9							5

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	2	5	1	9	3	4	8
3	9	8	4	7	6	1	5	2
1	4	5	8	3	2	7	6	9
8	1	7	6	4	5	9	2	3
2	5	6	3	9	8	4	7	1
4	3	9	7	2	1	6	8	5
7	2	3	1	5	4	8	9	6
5	6	4	9	8	3	2	1	7
9	8	1	2	6	7	5	3	4

Civil operators told to ground Dhruv copters after January 5 crash

Armed forces have already grounded all 330 choppers in their fleet; HAL has issued the advisory to BSF, Jharkhand govt., Mauritian Police Force

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has advised civilian operators to ground the indigenous Dhruv advanced light helicopter Mark-III until the cause of the crash in Porbandar last week is identified.

The armed forces have already temporarily grounded all their 330 Dhruvs following the January 5 crash of the Indian Coast Guard helicopter during a training sortie that killed all three crew members, Commandant Saurabh, Deputy Commandant S.K. Yadav and Pradhan Navik Manoj.

The HAL has informed its operators that the helicopter involved in the accident did not respond to pilot control inputs in the final three or four seconds, according to a helicopter industry source.

An HAL spokesperson neither confirmed nor declined the advisory. The Border Security Force has six of these choppers on its fleet, and the Jharkhand government has at least one Dhruv helicopter. The HAL also handed one Dhruv to the Government of Mauritius in February 2023 to be used by the Mauritian Police Force.

Precarious ride: There have been nearly 20 crashes involving the ALH over the past two decades. FILE PHOTO

The Coast Guard has constituted a Board of Inquiry into the accident, which is the third crash of a Dhruv in the past two years.

In September, one crashed during a medical evacuation off the Porbandar coast, killing all three aboard. In March 2023, a Dhruv of the Coast Guard crashed shortly after take-off in Kochi. There were no fatalities.

"There have been nearly 20 crashes involving the ALH over the past 24 years. While some of these have been due to operational reasons because of the extreme conditions the chopper flies in such high altitudes and low visibility conditions at night, there have also been concerns over control rods, which were found to be broken. Subsequently, the rods were changed with an upgraded material.

The inquiry spearheaded by the ICG will reveal whether the cause of the crash was due to operational circumstances or a manufacturing flaw," Wing Commander Unni Pillai (Retd), former chief test pilot at HAL, told *The Hindu*.

Denotified tribes' anger growing amid a stagnating scheme, classification issues

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With the Centre's SEED scheme for denotified tribes only now taking off, caste certificates being denied to them in 29 States, and the Idate Commission's 2017 report in cold storage, anger among the denotified tribes (DNT), semi-nomadic tribes (SNT), and nomadic tribes (NT) is growing across States such as Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Gujarat. This anger is now also frustrating members of the Union government's Development and Welfare Board for DNTs, SNTs, and NTs (DWBDNC), who are making fresh attempts to push for the implementation of the Idate panel recommendations, which include a permanent commission, proper classification, and a detailed caste census.

Bharatbhai Babubhai Patni, DWBDNC member, said that the government can no longer shut out voices calling for the Idate Commission's recommendations to be implemented. "A Schedule must be put out listing out all the DNTs. Alongside the issuing of SC/ST/OBC certificates, there must be directions to issue joint certificates like SC-DNT, ST-DNT, OBC-DNT."

The government had constituted the National Commission for DNTs/NTs/SNTs in 2015 under the chairmanship of Bhiku Ramji Idate, which had put out its final report in 2017, calling for the government to expedite the final classification of these communities, count their population by including a caste census column in the 2021 census, and provide a sub-quota for them under SC/ST/OBC quotas in public education and employment. The Idate commission had concluded there were a total of 1,526 DNT, NT, and SNT communities across the country, of which 269 were not yet categorised as SC, ST, or OBC.

Fresh attempts made to push for the implementation of the Idate Commission recommendations

Certificates sought

B.K. Lodhi, who was Member Secretary in the Idate Commission and is now part of the Vimukt, Ghumantu, and Ardh-Ghumantu Janjatiya Vikas Parishad (Akhil Bharatiya) in Uttar Pradesh, said, "We were the first to resist British rulers and branded criminal for it. How can this government not sort out these basic issues like DNT certificates across States?"

Uttar Pradesh is among the seven States that technically have begun issuing DNT community certificates. But Dr. Lodhi, who attended the national workshop in New Delhi last week, said, "They are saying they have issued some 200-300 certificates and painting it as some huge achievement. It strikes at a core area, denying our identity. If the government cannot get States to issue DNT certificates, they might as well brand us criminal again, at least we will get our identity."

Welfare measures

The SEED scheme (Scheme for the Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNT communities) was meant to be the Centre's flagship scheme for these communities. Launched in February 2022, the scheme offered assistance for livelihood, education, healthcare, and housing. But it took over two years for the scheme to take off.

In a meeting of top officials, chaired by Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar last month, the government had resolved to urge States and UTs to start issuing DNT certification along with regular caste certificates.

"The Minister has assured us of action but there are real concerns about the lack of implementation of the Idate Commission's recommendations. So many people are not getting community certificates because of belonging to sub-castes, or spelling it differently, or having a hyphenated caste name," Mr. Patni said.

New National Museum in Delhi to display artefacts in chronological and thematic order

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

North Block and South Block in the national capital, which are set to house the new National Museum, will have artefacts arranged chronologically and thematically, according to a draft proposal under consideration of the Union Culture Ministry.

North Block, which is likely to be the first one of the buildings where retrofitting will be completed, is expected to house the artefacts in a chronological order, while South Block is likely to have theme-based sections, sources told *The Hindu*.

India signed a memorandum of understanding with France on December 19 last year for the development of the new museum, along the lines of the Louvre in Paris. The museum will be developed through adaptive reuse in collaboration with France, which is renowned for its expertise in such projects – exemplified by the Louvre, the Grand Palais, and the Hotel de la Marine. This approach mirrors France's 'Grand Projects' initiative that transformed government buildings into iconic cultural spaces.

Plans made: India signed an agreement with France on December 19 last year for the development of the new museum. PTI

The chronological arrangement will have about 50 sections each with 5-6 rooms and thus around 250 galleries in total. The thematic section would have displays based on different subjects such as literature, architecture, and art. There would also be galleries with augmented reality, educational centres and children's corners.

2,06,000 artefacts

North Block houses the Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs, while South Block houses the Prime Minister's Office, and the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs.

Offices in both the buildings are being moved to the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) building on Janpath as part of the Central Vista plan.

The new museum, which has been named 'Yug Yugeen Bharat' museum, will be able to house an estimated 25,000-30,000 artefacts and is expected to be the largest such museum in the world when completed.

As of now, the National Museum has 2,06,000 artefacts in total, out of which, 7,000-8,000 are on display.

"We have sought artefacts from all museums across the country for display in the upcoming new museum. While they are most welcome to send things on a permanent basis, we can also display them on a temporary basis and keep rotating them," B.R. Mani, Director General of the National Museum, told *The Hindu*.

Rijiju to ink pact for Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday embarked on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia to sign a bilateral agreement for the Haj pilgrimage of 2025, where India is seeking an additional quota for 10,000 pilgrims.

Mr. Rijiju is scheduled to meet Saudi Arabian Minister Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah on Monday when the two leaders are expected to sign the bilateral agreement. "I look forward to visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sign the bilateral agreement on Hajj 2025 and strengthen the people-to-people ties between our two great nations," Mr. Rijiju said in a post on X.

Mr. Rijiju will also meet Saleh Al Jasser, the Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services and discuss Haj flight operations and the pilgrimage-related bus and train services with him.

He will visit the Jeddah Haj Terminal, used by Indian pilgrims, where the government has dedicated an office space for facilitation.

India's Haj quota for 2025 was fixed by Saudi Arabia at 1,75,025 pilgrims, and the government is seeking an additional 10,000 quota.

Mr. Rijiju will also visit Madina.

Out of the total Haj pilgrims quota allocated to India, 70% would be handled by the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) while the remaining 30% will be allocated to private Haj group organisers, according to the government's Haj Policy for 2025.

In 2024, the HCoI was allotted 80% while the private Hajj group organisers got 20% of the quota.

India joins UN panel on data for official statistics

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has joined the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics, a statement by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

The panel was created to further investigate the challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on Sustainable Development Goals. India will contribute to shaping global standards and practices in harnessing Big Data and data science for official statistical purposes.

This membership is a strategic opportunity for India to align its domestic advancements in Big Data and data science.

Andhra Pradesh to get ₹14,000-crore semiconductor manufacturing facility

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The Indichip Semiconductors Limited and its joint venture partner M/s Yitoa Micro Technology Limited (YMTL) of Japan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh government to set up India's first private semiconductor manufacturing facility in the State, with an investment of more than ₹14,000 crore.

"The MoU was signed in Hyderabad. The proposed facility will focus on manufacturing silicon carbide (SiC) chips, contributing to India's technological advancement and sustainability goals," Minister for Industries T.G. Bharath told *The Hindu* over phone on Saturday.

An MoU being signed for a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh, at a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday. Industries Minister T.G. Bharath and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh are also seen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The semiconductor policy announced by the Andhra Pradesh government in November 2024 aims to transform the State into an electronics and semiconductor manufacturing hub.

The proposed SiC fab facility will be launched with a production capacity of 10,000 wafers per month, ramping up to 50,000 wafers per month within two to three years. Aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, this strategic investment aims to address the growing global demand for energy-efficient technologies, electric vehicles, and renewable energy solutions.

The MoU was signed by Piyush Bichhoriya, Managing Director, Indichip and Saikanth Varma, CEO, APEDB, in the presence of IT Minister Nara Lokesh and Mr. Bharath.

"This investment is a testament to Andhra Pradesh's ability to attract cutting-edge industries through innovative policies and robust infrastructure. Our focus on nurturing talent and providing seamless support will ensure the success of this initiative and strengthen India's global semiconductor footprint," Mr. Lokesh said.

Indichip Directors Sandeep Garg, Web Chang, President of Business Strategy, Ravi A.V., JV partner representatives David York Yuan Chang, Chairman of Yitoa Micro Technology Corporation (YMTC), Japan, and Motosugi Keisuke, CEO of YMTC and project co-ordinator Bhaskar Reddy were also present.

INBRIEF

BHEL, ONGC to collaborate for new, renewable energy

Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) and ONGC will explore collaboration in the area of new and renewable energy, including fuel cell, electrolyser and battery energy storage system projects. The State-owned entities will leverage the combined strengths for collaborating in emerging areas within the clean energy ecosystem and contribute to the country's National Green Hydrogen Mission, BHEL said in a release on signing of an MoU with ONGC.

IOB to raise MCLR by 5 bps for 3 tenors, 10 bps for 1 tenor

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) will raise its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 bps for three tenors and 10 bps for one tenor effective January 15. The rate will be raised by 5 bps for three month tenor to 8.65%; six month to 8.90%; and one year 9.10%. For the two year tenor, the MCLR is being increased by 10 bps to 9.10%, the State-owned lender announced after its Assets and Liabilities Management Committee meeting on Friday. One basis point equals 0.01%.

NLC arm, APDCL to develop solar projects in Assam

NLC India Ltd. on Saturday said its renewables arm has entered into a joint venture pact with Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd. (APDCL) for developing 1000 MW solar power projects in Assam. The pact has been signed between NLC India Renewables Ltd. (NIRL) and APDCL. While NIRL will have 51% stake in the JV, APDCL will have 49%. Power purchase pacts will be signed with Assam discoms for the sale of 100% of the generated power for 25 years. PTI

No more actions to curb derivatives trading on anvil: SEBI

The stock market regulator's wholetime member Ananth Narayan said an expert group is examining steps to improve risk management systems

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Refrain mode: SEBI is not mulling any steps on "suitability and appropriability", said Mr. Ananth Narayan. ANI

The capital markets regulator is not planning any more measures to curb or restrict activity in derivatives, SEBI's wholetime member Ananth Narayan said on Saturday.

An expert group under former RBI executive director G. Padmanabhan continues to work on bettering the system, and some moves on ease of doing business and better risk management are being mulled, he added.

"At this point in time, there is no thought of SEBI taking any further steps in this particular regard," Mr. Narayan said, addressing an event organised by SEBI-promoted NISM here.

He also made it clear that the SEBI was not mulling any steps on "suitability and appropriability", which would determine who could trade in the derivatives market.

It may be noted that in November, SEBI imposed a set of restrictions to curb highly speculative trades in the futures and options market after data pointed out that retail investors lost money in 93% of the trades over the last three years.

Making it clear that SEBI had nothing against derivatives and that they helped in price discovery and deepening the market, Mr. Narayan assured that the tweaks would be introduced only after consultations.

Some of the measures being discussed within the markets regulator included steps to better measure risk in the derivatives market. "What you need ideally is that the volumes in the cash market should be nice and liquid, and there should be depth in the market. And likewise, the volumes in the derivative market should also have depth, should also have good volumes," he noted.

It is important to make sure that there is some kind of connectivity in the liquidity of the two markets, he said.

Mr. Narayan said the SEBI is also considering linking market-wide position limits to delivery volumes.

Linked to the same, it is considering a revision of index training limits imposed during the COVID pandemic to control volatility, the wholetime member said. SEBI is also looking at the question of having indices with futures and options with very high concentrated weightages of some specific stocks from a perspective of ensuring trust in the system, Mr. Narayan added.

"Often in social media, we hear murmurs that something wrong is happening, especially in index trading. That there is some manipulation happening in the cash market, which is leading to some kind of activity in the derivative markets, and overall, it is creating...either huge volatility or no volatility and that it is being done as a manipulation for some people to profit," he said.

One of the questions the regulator is grappling with, is whether should there be restrictions on how much weightage the top stock or the top three stocks have in the F&O indices.

Waaree Energies to acquire EGP India for ₹792 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Waaree Energies Ltd., a manufacturer of solar PV modules, said on Saturday that it had signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% of Enel Green Power India Pvt. Ltd. from Enel Green Power Development S.R.L for ₹792 crore.

"This acquisition positions Waaree among the leading renewable energy independent power producers in the country and expands its project development pipeline, building on recent successes, including a utility auction win in Madhya Pradesh," the company said.

The acquisition will diversify revenue streams, enhance execution capabilities for wind projects, and expedite growth of Waaree's IPP business, Waaree Energies added.

"This acquisition marks a significant milestone in our overall growth strategy. By integrating EGP India's portfolio, we have a strong runway for additional business opportunities," said Hitesh Doshi, CMD, Waaree Energies Ltd.

"According to Enel's strategic plan, this deal furthers the optimisation of the group's international footprint and asset portfolio with an asset rotation and capital allocation strategy focused on core geographies with an integrated energy market presence," said Stéphane Zweguintzow, Enel's Head of Asia and Oceania.

India's economy likely to be a tad weaker in 2025: IMF MD Georgieva

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Kristalina Georgieva

The Indian economy is expected to be "a little weaker" in 2025 despite steady global growth, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said.

Ms. Georgieva also said she expected quite a lot of uncertainty in the world this year mainly around the trade policy of the U.S.

In her annual media roundtable with a group of reporters on Friday, she said global growth was expected to be steady in 2025, but with regional divergence.

Ms. Georgieva said she expects the Indian economy to be a little weaker in 2025. However, she did not explain it any further. The World Economy Outlook update week will have more details about it.

"The U.S. is doing quite a bit better than we expected before, the EU is somewhat stalling, (and) India a little weaker," she said.

Brazil was facing somewhat higher inflation, she said. In China, the world's second-largest economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was seeing deflationary pressure and ongoing challenges with domestic demand, she said.

"Low-income countries, despite all the efforts they are making, are in a position when any new shock can affect them quite negatively," Ms. Georgieva said.

"What we expect in 2025 is to have quite a lot of uncertainty, especially in terms of economic policies. Not surprisingly, given the size and role of the US economy, there is keen interest globally in the policy directions of the incoming administration, in particular on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and government efficiency," Ms. Georgieva said.

"This uncertainty is particularly high around the path for trade policy going forward, adding to the headwinds facing the global economy, especially for countries and regions that are more integrated in global supply chains, medium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said.

That uncertainty is actually expressed globally through higher long-term interest rates, even though short-term interest rates have gone down, the IMF Managing Director said.

On inflation, the IMF expects global disinflation to continue, Ms. Georgieva remarked.

Akasa's unique dilemma: too many pilots, too little flying

Problem of plenty: Akasa Air operates a fleet of 26 aircraft, but employs far more pilots than needed for its operations. FILE PHOTO

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The global shortage of new aircraft has disrupted Akasa Air's expansion plans, creating a surplus of hundreds of pilots.

With Boeing 737 MAX deliveries slowing in 2024, nearly 400 of Akasa's 850 pilots remain grounded. Originally scheduled for 12 months, post-joining training timelines have stretched to 18 months, with some pilots fearing a further delay of 6 months.

Akasa currently operates a fleet of 26 aircraft but employs far more pilots than needed for its operations. The airline offers grounded pilots a salary equivalent to 40 flying hours, resulting in incomes 50% lower than peers involved in active flying. This financial strain affects both mid-career pilots and new recruits burdened by training loans of ₹60 lakh to ₹1.2 crore.

In response to a detailed questionnaire from *The Hindu*, the airline's spokesperson said, "Despite the changes in the aircraft delivery schedules, more than 60% of our pilots have begun to accumulate flying hours." The airline added that by the end of 2025, it would be able to ensure a vast majority of pilots start flying. Since launching in August 2022, Akasa had ambitious plans to grow its fleet to 72 Boeing 737 MAX 8s within five years. However, supply chain disruptions and regulatory issues in the U.S. in 2024 limited its fleet growth to just three aircraft last year, down from the initial pace of one aircraft per month in 2022 and 2023. By March 2025, Akasa expects to have 27 aircraft – 15 fewer than planned.

But the airline has been on a spree to recruit pilots in large numbers from the "very beginning" in what some call a "calculated risk". Three years since the launch it seems "the worst case scenario has played out for the airline", said a former executive of the airline. The person explained that Akasa needs nearly 18 pilots per aircraft keeping in mind the pace with which it planned to double its fleet. This would mean that with 26 aircraft the airline needs only 468 cockpit crew of the nearly 850 it has employed.

Aspects of pilot training have now come under scrutiny with complaints of favouritism in pilot release schedules and training lapses leading to fines and suspensions by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT

e - Procurement Notice (Amendment)

1) 'e'- Procurement Notice No. 01/SE/IC-2/2024-2025, Date: 02.01.2025

Name of Work: I&CAD Dept.,- "Adoption of National Framework with Revenue Generation Model for Sediment Management and Restoration of Storage Capacity of Reservoirs in 1) Lower Manair Dam at Alugunur(V), Thimmapur(M), Karimnagar Dist. 2) Mid Manair Dam at Manwada(V), Boinpalli(M), Rajanna Siricilla Dist & 3) Kadam at Kadam(V), Kadam(M) Nirmal Dist". Date/time From document available. **For**: 04.01.2025 from 03.00 PM; **Read as**: 12.01.2025 from 03.00 PM; Last Date and Time for download of Tender schedules Online: **For**: 21.01.2025 up to 03.00 PM; **Read as** : 27.01.2025 up to 03.00 PM.

Superintending Engineer(FAC),
Irrigation Circle No.2, LMD Colony,
Karimnagar Dist. 505 527

DIPR R.O.No.9044-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dt. 11.01.2025

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
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The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites applications from eligible officers of Central Organized Accounts Service/Accounts/ Audit departments or Central/State/U.T. Governments/ Statutory / Autonomous Bodies/Government Universities/Government Research and Development Organizations etc., to fill one post of **Senior Accounts Officer (Pay Level-11) on Deputation basis at JIPMER, Puducherry.**

The application format, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience, and other conditions of eligibility, etc. for the above post is available on the JIPMER website **"www.jipmer.edu.in/announcement/jobs".**

The last date for receipt of the filled-in application is **08.02.2025** till **1:00 P.M.**

DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन. स्वा. अभि. विभाग क्षेत्र बांसवाड़ा (राज.)
सिन्टेक्स मिल के पास, दाहोद रोड-327001, दूरभाषः- 02962-294907
ई-मेल- acebanswara.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acephedbanswara@gmail.com
क्रमांकः- ए.सी.ई./लेखा/निविदा/2024-25/164-168 दिनांकः- 03.01.2025

-:: संशोधित ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01-02/2024-25 ::-

जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र बांसवाड़ा के अधीन विभिन्न शहरों में अमृत 2.0 के तहत पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन बिड्स इच्छुक पात्र बिडर्स ई-निविदा संख्या 01-02/2024-25 दिनांक 17.12.2024 सायं 06 बजे से 07.01.2025 सायं 06 बजे तक आमंत्रित की गई थी जिसमें निम्न तालिकानुसार निविदा की दिनांकों में संशोधन किया जाता है। बिड्स से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

NIT No.	UBN No.	Name of Work
01/ 2024-25	PHE2425 WSOB07236	Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Kushalgarh, District Banswara including 05 years O&M after 01 year of Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0
02/ 2024-25	PHE2425 WLOB07257	Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Paratpgarh, Chhoti Sadri and Dhariawad, District Pratapgarh including 05 years O&M after 01 year of Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0

Sr. No.	Events	Date & time as per Existing schedule	Date And Time as per extended/ amended schedule	Website/Location
1	Last Date for Submission of Bid Document	07.01.2025 06:00 PM	16.01.2025 06:00 PM	https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
2	Last Date for physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	08.01.2025 01:00 PM	17.01.2025 01:00 PM	https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
3	Date of Online Opening of Technical Bids	08.01.2025 03:00 PM	17.01.2025 03:00 PM	https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

(निरिल कुमार)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र बांसवाड़ा

DIPR/C/306/2025

Millions of diabetes, heart disease cases linked to sugary drinks

The Hindu Bureau

A new study estimates that in 2020, 2.2 million new cases of type 2 diabetes and 1.2 million new cases of cardiovascular disease occur each year globally due to consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, representing 9.8% and 3.1%, respectively, of all incident cases. The study estimated sugar-sweetened beverage-attributable type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease burdens across 184 countries in 1990 and 2020.

As per the study, in developing countries, the case count is particularly sobering. The highest sugar-sweetened beverage-attributable percentage burdens were in Latin America, the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa. In Latin America and the Caribbean, they contributed to nearly 24% of new diabetes cases and more than 11% of new cases of cardiovascular disease. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it found that sugar-sweetened beverages contributed to more than 21% of all new diabetes cases. "From 1990 to 2020, the largest proportional increases in sugar-sweetened beverage-attributable incident type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease cases were in sub-Saharan Africa, 8.8% and 4.4%, respectively," the study found.

Colombia, Mexico, and South Africa are countries that have been hard hit. While more than 48% of all new diabetes cases in Colombia were attributable to consumption of sugary drinks, nearly one-third of all new diabetes cases in Mexico were linked to sugary drink consumption. In South Africa, 27.6% of new diabetes cases and 14.6% of cardiovascular disease cases were attributable to sugary drink consumption.

Sugary beverages are rapidly digested, causing a spike in blood sugar levels with little nutritional value. Regular consumption over time leads to weight gain, insulin resistance, and a host of metabolic issues tied to type 2 diabetes and heart disease, two of the world's leading causes of death. Men are more likely than women to suffer the consequences of sugary drink consumption, as are younger adults compared to their older counterparts, the researchers say.

They call for a multi-pronged approach, including public health campaigns, regulation of sugary drink advertising, and taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages. Some countries have taken steps in this direction. Mexico, which has one of the highest per capita rates of sugary drink consumption in the world, introduced a tax on the beverages in 2014. Early evidence suggests that the tax has been effective, particularly among lower-income individuals.

IIT Roorkee uses bacterial enzymes to degrade plasticizers

Once integrated into bacteria, the enzymes remain active for a longer time and the bacteria can be used continuously for degrading the plasticizers

R. Prasad

Besides plastics, the amount of carcinogenic plasticizers in the environment is increasing at an alarming rate. Plasticizers are chemicals added to plastics and personal care products to enhance flexibility and shine and are commonly found in items such as baby toys, shampoos, soaps, and food containers. Plasticizers can be absorbed through the skin, making them a direct threat to human health.

A team of researchers headed by Dr. Pravindra Kumar, Professor at the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Roorkee has successfully used an enzyme – esterase enzyme – produced by soil bacteria *Sulfobacillus acidophilus* to break down diethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) plasticizer. While a Chinese team had characterised this enzyme to degrade low molecular weight phthalate diester plasticizers, which can be degraded by several reported esterase enzymes, the IIT Roorkee team has identified its actual potential and used it for degrading difficult to degrade high molecular weight phthalate plasticizers. The research was funded by THDC India Limited, Rishikesh, and the results were published recently in the journal *Structure*. The group has also discovered that the esterase enzyme can bind to molecules similar to polypropylene used in plastics, making it a potential tool for extracting polypropylene from contaminated water sources.

Cleaning up using soil bacteria enzymes

Plasticizers, which are added to plastics and personal care products, can be absorbed through the skin

- The researchers have used esterase enzyme produced by soil bacteria Sulfobacillus acidophilus to break down diethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) plasticizer
- A Chinese team characterised the esterase enzyme to degrade low molecular weight phthalate diester plasticizers, while the IIT Roorkee team uses it to degrade high molecular weight phthalate plasticizers
- The esterase enzyme was structurally characterised using X-ray crystallography
- In 2017, the team isolated another soil bacteria which use three enzymes in sequence to break down phthalates into carbon-dioxide and water

Enzyme production: The esterase enzyme is produced in large-scale by cloning the enzyme genes into *E. coli* bacteria. REUTERS

- The researchers have used all five enzymes in sequence to break down DHEP plasticizer into water and carbon-dioxide
- The team is trying to insert the genes of all five enzymes into bacteria to directly convert DEHP plasticizer into water and carbon-dioxide
- Once integrated into bacteria, the enzymes remain active for a long time and the bacteria can be used continuously to degrade the plasticizer

The esterase enzyme was structurally characterised using X-ray crystallography. "This helped in identifying the active sites of the enzymes and in understanding the detailed mechanism by which this enzyme degrades the DEHP plasticizer," says Shalja Verma from IIT Roorkee and the first author of the paper. Other sophisticated biochemical and biophysical approaches were also used to understand the efficiency of the enzyme to degrade the plasticizer.

The esterase enzyme remains active for about a month and catalyzes the degradation of DEHP plasticizer with significant efficiency. For large-scale production of this enzyme, the researchers cloned the genes of the EstS1 esterase enzyme into *E. coli* bacteria and the enzyme was produced on a large-scale through aerobic culture.

The enzyme breaks down the DEHP plasticizer into two products – mono-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (MEHP) and 2-ethyl hexanol. According to Prof. Kumar, this esterase enzyme, along with other enzymes identified by their group previously can convert high molecular weight phthalate plasticizers into water and carbon-dioxide. And this is where the IIT Roorkee team appears to have an edge. "The results of our research mark a significant advancement in addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges – providing a promising path toward a plastic and plasticizer-free future," says Dr. Kumar.

Other researchers involved in the work include Shweta Choudhary, Kamble Amith Kumar, Jai Krishna Mahto, Ishani Mishra, Dr. Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Dr. Shailly Tomar, Dr. Debabrata Sircar and Dr. Jitin Singla.

In 2017, the team isolated another soil bacteria *Comamonas testosteroni* that breaks down the phthalates produced by DEHP degradation into carbon-dioxide and water. In the lab, the researchers used the enzymes in sequence to first break down DEHP to MEHP and 2-ethyl hexanol using esterase enzyme, which then was degraded to phthalate using another enzyme. The phthalate is then converted to intermediate compounds using a third enzyme (phthalate dioxygenase). The intermediate compound produced after this step is converted into protocatechuate by the enzyme phthalate decarboxylase. Once protocatechuate is produced, the tricarboxylic acid cycle of the bacteria converts it to carbon-dioxide and water.

While the esterase enzyme used for breaking down DEHP into MEHP and 2-ethyl hexanol is from *Sulfobacillus acidophilus* bacteria, the three other enzymes used in sequence are from *Comamonas testosteroni* bacteria. "In the lab, we have tried using the enzymes in sequence to break down DEHP into water and carbon-dioxide," says Ms. Verma. "We are now trying to insert the genes of all the five enzymes into bacteria to directly convert the DEHP plasticizer into water and carbon-dioxide."

Putting all five enzymes into bacteria will speed up the degradation process not only because the enzymes will act sequentially but also because degradation of the enzymes becomes a non-issue once they are integrated into bacteria. Once integrated into bacteria, the enzymes remain active for a longer time and the bacteria can be used continuously for degrading the plasticizers. But when the enzymes are used without integrating into bacteria, a fresh batch of enzymes needs to be produced to continue the degradation process. "We are also undertaking enzyme engineering to speed up the degradation process inside the bacteria," says Ms. Verma.

Putting the gene editing tool to use

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

When you edit a letter or a document, you make specific changes in the words and phrases to make the meaning clearer. Gene editing involves changing the sequence of DNA using specific enzymes which can cut DNA at a precise location, thus permitting the removal, addition, or replacement of genetic information within a gene. The process is akin to correcting a misspelled word in a sentence or replacing it with a more appropriate word. In organisms, this modification directly alters the genetic instructions encoded in the DNA.

In earlier days, if we wanted to modify the message in the DNA to a desired function, it involved two enzymes – one to cut the DNA at a specific site, and another to help insert the desired genetic change. While such twin-enzyme methods worked, they were laborious.

This was when Drs Jennifer Doudna of University of California, Berkeley, U.S., and Emmanuelle Charpentier of Humboldt University, Germany came out with a double action gene modification method, called CRISRP-Cas9. This is a mechanism that can edit the genomes of humans, pathogens, and plants. CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, and Cas9 (which stands for CRISPR- associated Protein 9) cuts DNA strands at a specific location, creating a gap that can be filled with new DNA. Doudna and Charpentier shared the Nobel Prize in 2012.

Restrictive: Researchers in India can use CRISPR-Cas9 only for academic purposes. GETTY IMAGES

However, Prof. Feng Zang who was then at a Southern California University, published a paper wherein he showed genome engineering using the CRISPR-Cas9 system. But he was not included as the third scientist by the Nobel Committee. He then went ahead, obtained a patent, and moved to Boston, where he works and this patent is owned today by the MIT-Harvard University combine, called Broad Institute, which uses the CRISPR-Cas9 system for a variety of applications such as the mouse model for cancer, identifying genes that make cancer drugs ineffective, and modification of immune cells, plus training people in the technology.

While CRISPR-Cas9 patented technology has been used for the above-mentioned diagnostic and genetic uses, agricultural scientists and botanical researchers have been using this method to genome engineer plants. The group of Dr. Holger Puchta of the Karlsruhe Botanical Institute, Germany has published several papers, notably on how to use Cas9, Cas 12, and Cas13, for targeting plant genomes. Most recently, CRISPR-Cas9 based 'knock-out' of two genes in tomato plants increased their sweetness with no loss in weight. Similar studies on other plants and fruits will surely follow.

However, a recent report by Dr. Anurag Chaurasia, titled "How CRISPR patent issues block Indian farmers from accessing biotech benefits", points out that the IPO has granted a local patent to ERS Genomics of Dublin, which allows Indian researchers to use CRISPR-Cas9 only for academic purposes. Our rural farmers are thus still left 'classical'.

Visually handicapped

For people afflicted with eye disorders, scientists and clinicians at LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, in collaboration with a group in IGIB, have used one of these high precision methods to correct inherited mutations in patient-specific stem cells (*Nature Communications*, June 2024). These mutation-corrected stem cells could then make retinal cells, which showed restored expression of the missing protein.

This has opened the possibility of developing autologous cell therapies for certain inherited eye disorders. A similar approach can be adapted for other diseases affecting other tissues and cell types of the body.

SNAPSHOTS

Insights into coevolution of lice eggs with early bird hosts

Fossilised chewing lice eggs preserved in mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber have been discovered, marking the first direct evidence of ectoparasitic lice feeding on feathers of stem-group birds during the Mesozoic. This offers insights into the origins of lice and their early coevolution with vertebrate hosts. The discovery of the lice eggs in association with feather of enantiornithine, an extinct group, supports the hypothesis that Mesozoic bird lice were parasitic on early feathered vertebrates.

Tumor-secreted protein may be a key to treat brain tumor

Targeting a protein called endocan and its related signaling pathway could be a new approach for treating glioblastoma, an aggressive and lethal type of brain cancer. The researchers discovered that endocan, which is produced by endothelial cells lining blood vessels in the tumour, activates PDGFRA, a receptor on glioblastoma cells that drives tumour growth and makes the cancer resistant to standard therapies such as radiation. They suggest a path toward the development of therapies that specifically inhibit this interaction.

Oldest known dinosaur in northern hemisphere

It is generally thought that dinosaurs emerged on the southern portion of Pangea called Gondwana millions of years before spreading to the northern half named Laurasia. A newly described dinosaur whose fossils were uncovered in present-day Wyoming is challenging that narrative. The creature, named *Ahvaytum bahndooiveche*, is now the oldest known Laurasian dinosaur, and with fossils estimated to be around 230 million years old.

Question Corner

Snake alert

How do monkeys recognise snakes so fast?

A Japanese researcher has found that a monkey's ability to rapidly detect snakes is because of the presence of snake scales as a visual cue. The findings highlight an evolutionary adaptation of primates to identify snakes based on specific visual characteristics. In an experiment the researcher demonstrated that monkeys exhibited an immediate response to images of snakes but not to images of salamanders, implying a specific fear of snakes. On the basis of this, the researcher wondered what would happen if he edited the images of the salamanders to have snakeskin without changing anything else. When edited images of salamanders with snakeskin were shown to monkeys, they reacted to the altered images of the harmless creature equally fast, or even faster, than to the snake. The results are "consistent with the snake-detection theory that snakes were a strong selective pressure favouring modifications in the primate visual system that allow them to detect snakes more quickly or reliably".

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Is groundwater contamination high in India?

What are the contaminants? What happens if nitrate presence is high in groundwater?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

An assessment of India's groundwater by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) found that several States are grappling with a serious problem of nitrate contamination.

Which are the sources of contamination?

The most concerning finding was that the number of districts with excessive nitrate in their groundwater rose from 359 in 2017 to 440 in 2023. This works out to nearly 56% of India's districts having excessive nitrate in ground water, defined as having more than 45 mg/l (milligram per litre). Of the 15,239 groundwater samples collected from across the country for testing, 19.8% samples had nitrates – nitrogenous compounds – above safe limits though it must be said that this proportion has not substantially changed since 2017. In the 13,028 samples analysed in 2017 for instance, 21.6% had excessive nitrate. There are two major concerns with excess nitrate content: one is methemoglobinemia, or a reduced ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen.

A bigger problem with excessive nitrates are environmental: once the nitrates in the groundwater rise to the surface and become part of lakes and ponds, algal blooms throttle the health of aquatic ecosystems.

The most common contaminant identified in groundwater is dissolved nitrogen in the form of nitrate in sub-surface waters. Since, the nitrogen content of soil is generally quite low, farmers have to look for external sources of nitrogen by using ammonium nitrate, calcium nitrate, urea, diammonium hydrogen phosphate etc. Although nitrate is the main form in which nitrogen occurs in groundwater, dissolved nitrogen also occurs in the form of ammonium (NH_4^+), ammonia (NH_3), nitrite (NO_2^-), nitrogen (N_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O) and organic nitrogen.

> The Central Ground Water Board estimates that the country's degree of groundwater extraction is 60.4%, or roughly the same as it has been through the years since 2009

Which places had serious contamination?

Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu reported the highest proportion of tested groundwater blocks with nitrate exceeding permissible levels – 49%, 48% and 37% of the tested samples respectively reported numbers beyond the limit.

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have a long-standing nitrate problem with relative levels fairly constant since 2017, the report says. However a growing concern are blocks in central and southern India, which are reporting an increasing trend, and therefore is a reason for worry. "Maharashtra (35.74%), Telangana (27.48%), Andhra Pradesh (23.5%) and Madhya Pradesh (22.58%) also show notable levels of nitrate contamination," the report notes.

Is nitrate the only chemical contaminant?

Other major chemical contaminants affecting groundwater quality are arsenic, iron, fluoride and uranium. Just as 19.8% samples of tested groundwater had excess nitrate, 9.04% of samples had fluoride levels above the limit.

Fluoride concentrations exceeding the permissible limit were "a major concern" in Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Rajasthan and Punjab reported the maximum number of samples with uranium concentration exceeding 100 ppb (parts per billion). Anything over 30 ppb is considered unsafe and several of these samples were predominant in regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, where groundwater was over-exploited: more water was being drawn out than replenished by rains or other means.

What was the state of groundwater in 2024?

Along with its report on groundwater quality, the organisation also produced a report on the quantity of groundwater in various blocks, enumerating the availability of groundwater across India. The CGWB estimates that on the whole, the country's degree of groundwater extraction is 60.4%, or roughly the same as it has been through the years since 2009. About 73% of the blocks are in the 'safe' zone, meaning that they are replenished enough to compensate for water drawn out.

How are groundwater levels measured?

The CGWB relies on a network of about 26,000 groundwater observation wells that require technicians to manually measure the state of groundwater in a region. Since 2023, however, around 16,000-17,000 digital water level recorders were connected to piezometers in the wells. Piezometers measure groundwater levels and transmit the information digitally to a centralised location. In the next three years, the CGWB aims to increase its network from the existing 26,000 to about 40,000. When combined with similar networks possessed by other institutions, India will have about 67,000 digitally recordable units to monitor ground water dynamics.

Why is Meta shutting down fact-checkers?

Is crowd-sourced fact-checking a better way of implementing content moderation? What role did fact-checkers play during the COVID-19 pandemic? How have fact-checking communities responded to Zuckerberg's announcement? When are policy changes likely to be implemented?

John Xavier
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On January 7, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the company will get rid of fact-checkers and simplify content policies by removing restrictions on topics as it is "out of touch with mainstream discourse." In a five-minute video, he said that the company will return to its roots as the fact-checkers have been "too politically biased" and "destroyed more trust than they created, especially in the U.S."

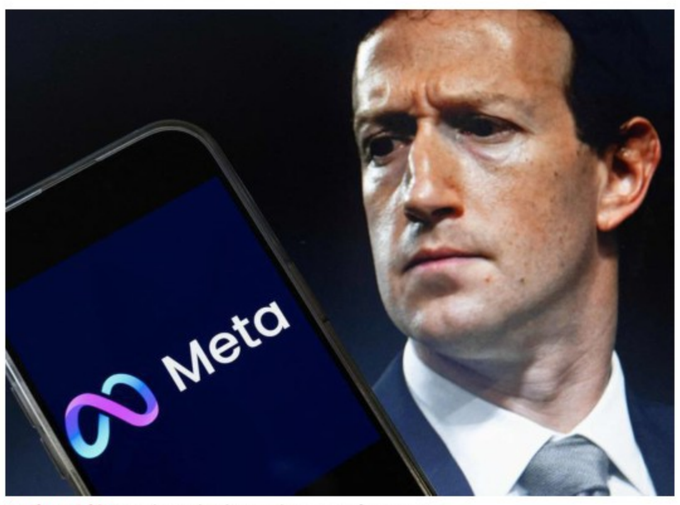
How did Meta get into fact-checking?

After the 2016 U.S. presidential election results were out, Meta, then known as Facebook, faced serious backlash for amplifying political posts that helped tilt the election in favour of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. To build back its reputation, Facebook roped in content moderators globally and developed technology to filter harmful content.

Meta started its independent fact-checking programme in partnership with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN). Over time, Meta became one of the largest donors to IFCN.

Meta worked with fact-checkers to address misinformation on its platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Threads. While the fact-checkers worked on finding misinformation and rating them based on the seriousness of content violation, Meta followed up with action and informed users of the measures it took. Beyond fact-checking, partner organisations worked across Meta's platforms to carry out research,

> Topics including 'immigration and gender identity', a subject of frequent political discourse, will be discussed



Policy shift: Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Meta. AFP

and rate content on a qualitative scale – false, altered, partly false, missing context, satire, and true. Per IFCN's 'State of Fact-Checkers in 2023' report, income from Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Programme and grants remain fact-checkers' predominant revenue streams. And 68% of fact-checking organisations have 10 or fewer employees, whereas only 6.6% employ 31 or more people.

Why was there a need for fact-checkers?

Fact-checkers play a vital role in finding false and misleading content promoted on social media platforms by domestic accounts, and at times by foreign regimes. They also played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic by correcting misinformation on social platforms. If the rated content on Meta is false or altered, its distribution across Meta's apps will be reduced. If key information is missing or the content is satirical, Meta might provide the needed facts. Content rated poorly by a fact-checker may not be suggested to users, and repeat offenders could be hit with penalties such as restricted reach, being unable to monetise their content or turn their content into a news page.

What other steps were taken by Meta?

Apart from relying on fact-checkers, Meta set up an Oversight Board to adjudicate cases involving serious content policy violations. The board heard serious content violation cases and made binding decisions to uphold or overturn Meta's own actions. Gradually, Meta started to move away from news content in general to keep its platform free from disinformation-prone content. The company said it will not "proactively recommend content about politics on recommendation surfaces across Instagram and Threads", noting that it wants these apps to be a "great experience" for all.

Now that is starting to change under Joel Kaplan, Meta's new chief of global affairs. Mr. Kaplan said "civic content" about elections and politics would return to the apps, and that users can choose what they want to see. He expanded on Mr. Zuckerberg's video clip, noting that the platform will also get rid of a number of restrictions "on topics like immigration and gender identity that are the subject of frequent political discourse and debate". He said, "It's not right that things can be said on TV or the floor of Congress, but not on our platforms."

What is Community Notes?

Meta will be moving towards an X platform styled content moderation system called 'Community Notes'. Under this model, instead of a centralised authority taking action against misinformation, users work together to add additional context that will appear under false or even blatantly illegal content.

The feature itself goes beyond the Elon Musk-era Twitter. It was originally conceived as Birdwatch, where users could add context to posts they see that require more information. Initially launched in 2021, the feature gained prominence in March 2022 when misinformation on the Russia-Ukraine conflict was rife on the platform.

While crowd-sourced fact-checking is seen as a better way of implementing content moderation, Community Notes can also reflect biased majority viewpoints regarding controversial subjects. The feature can also be slow, meaning false or hateful content may go viral long before the specific context is added to clarify the post. Furthermore, under X's current style of content moderation, even posts glorifying slavery and Nazism are allowed to remain online, unchallenged.

In an open letter to Mr. Zuckerberg, IFCN said, "There is no reason Community Notes couldn't co-exist with the third-party fact-checking programme; they are not mutually exclusive. A Community Notes model that works in collaboration with professional fact-checking would have strong potential as a new model for promoting accurate information."

But, Meta has decided on a hands-off approach to content moderation, by stopping its demotion of fact-checked content and removing the full-screen warnings over flagged posts. The company will focus more on illegal content and high-severity violations while adjusting content filters to make it more challenging to take down flagged content – even though this means catching "less bad stuff," as per Mr. Zuckerberg.

What is the significance of the new policy?

Mr. Zuckerberg's shift in stance comes at a time when a new Trump administration takes charge. The tech CEO dined with the President-elect at his Mar-a-Lago resort in November to repair a fraught relationship. Earlier, he publicly praised Mr. Trump's conduct after the former President survived an assassination attempt. In the video clip, Mr. Zuckerberg referenced the 2024 election as a "cultural tipping point" and committed to "restoring" free expression across Meta platforms. In essence, he was aligning his values with the new conservative government by making a clean break from the old one.

While the plan to end the fact-checking programme in 2025 applies only to the U.S., there are similar programmes Meta is running in more than 100 countries. Some of these countries are highly vulnerable to misinformation that spurs political instability, election interference, mob violence and even genocide. If Meta decides to stop the programme worldwide, it is almost certain to result in real-world harm in many places, the IFCN said in its open letter.

Are lithium batteries on flights dangerous?

Why has the airline pilots' body called attention to fire risks? What causes lithium-ion batteries to catch fire? What are the fire-safety equipment and protocols that need to be in place? What happened when Hurricane Helene struck the U.S. in November last year?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On January 2, the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) issued three position papers on the fire risk due to the use of lithium-ion batteries in airport and aircraft settings. The papers are motivated by air operators' increasing use of electric vehicles (EVs) and lithium-ion batteries as well as the batteries becoming more energy-dense.

What is IFALPA?

The IFALPA is a global nonprofit representing the international community of professional pilots. After the Second World War, the UN established the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in 1947 to coordinate air transport and its principles worldwide. A year later, ICAO organised a conference in London where pilots could interact with its leaders. The IFALPA was born at this event with 13 pilots' associations. According to a source on the ICAO website, IFALPA encompassed 104 member associations representing one lakh professional pilots worldwide around 2013. Per the same source, "The belief [is] that the unique perspective of pilots operating in scheduled

> Studies have found that existing fire kits have not been able to respond adequately to fires of lithium-ion batteries

New risks: A technician working on a lithium-ion battery. ISTOCKPHOTO

flying would be of significant benefit to the creation and adaptation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) through which ICAO regulates international civil aviation." The IFALPA also provides inputs to the International Air Transport Association, the Airports Council International, and the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Association.

Why are there fears about lithium batteries?

Almost every major industry in the world is mechanised to a significant degree, and the energy for these machines has traditionally been produced by burning fossil fuels. As climate mitigation has become more pressing, industries are under pressure to replace this thermal energy – the principal cause of global warming – with electric energy.

For example, EVs draw electric energy from a battery to drive an electric motor and supply kinetic energy to the wheels. In an internal combustion engine, heat energy released by burning fossil fuel moves pistons, whose motion is converted to rotary motion of the wheels.

Lithium-ion batteries have emerged as a popular solution to storing electric energy because they are energy-dense, rechargeable, and can be made in almost any shape, which is useful when there are space constraints as onboard an aircraft. But lithium-ion batteries have been known to catch fire when they are subjected to certain physical stresses.

The fire is the result of the stress creating a short-circuit inside the battery, leaving it to keep producing electric current, heat, and oxygen. The battery's internal components can become corroded while the risk of catching fire increases. The short circuit can be the result of mechanical, electric, and/or thermal abuse, which respectively deforms the internal structure, degrades its electric performance, and causes heat to accumulate.

For example, after Hurricane Helene struck the U.S. in November 2024, 48 lithium-ion batteries reportedly caught fire.

University of South Carolina mechanical engineer Xinyu Huang said they may have been the result of EV batteries rarely being rated to be waterproof when they are sitting in salt water for more than 30 minutes. Such situations are more likely to occur during flooding, which is becoming more common due to climate change and poor urban planning.

What do the IFALPA papers say?

The three position papers are numbered POS01, POS02, and POS03. POS02 and POS03 are more general whereas POS01 is more specific.

POS02 is motivated by the different kind of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries (compared to internal combustion engines). As Mr. Xinyu wrote, "When a lithium-ion battery pack bursts into flames, it releases toxic fumes, burns violently and is extremely hard to put out. Frequently, firefighters' only option is to let it burn out by itself." The position paper thus asks "airports, rescue and fire-fighting services, operators, and ground service providers" to acquire or develop purpose-built fire-safety equipment and protocols.

POS03 extends these concerns to the flight deck – the area colloquially called the "cockpit" in civilian aircraft – where the batteries may be present in components required to operate the aircraft. It also calls attention to studies by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency finding that existing fire kits couldn't respond adequately to fires of lithium-ion batteries with an energy rating of 100 Wh or higher.

POS01 is concerned with the safe transport of lithium-ion batteries, especially UN regulations 3480 and 3481. Since the UN classifies these batteries as "miscellaneous dangerous goods", the regulations specify the packaging and labelling standards required to transport them by air. UN3480 applies to lithium-ion batteries transported in bulk and UN3481 to lithium-ion batteries fit inside some equipment that's being transported in bulk.

One difference between the two regulations is that UN3480 requires the batteries to be charged to less than 30%, also known as state of charge (SOC) 30%, whereas UN3481 doesn't. POS01 contends that UN3481 didn't adopt this restriction because it assumed manufacturers would install safeguards in the equipment to prevent a fire from one battery spreading to others. But as the energy density of batteries and the number of settings in which they are used is increasing and the size of the equipment that uses them is shrinking, IFALPA's position is that the SOC 30% limit should be extended to UN3481 as well.

PROFILES

Back in power with fewer friends

Nicolas Maduro

Venezuela's strongman has been sworn in for a third term at a time when the Latin American country is facing international isolation and economic woes, besides concerns about growing repression at home

Srinivasan Ramani

More than 11 years after assuming power as Venezuela's interim President following the death of popular leader Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro has yet again been sworn as the President of the Latin American country. The circumstances of the retention of his post and the reactions to the ceremony from international actors provide a sense of deja vu.

In 2019, when Mr. Maduro was sworn in for the second time as President, nearly 40 countries including the U.S., neighbouring Colombia and Brazil and those belonging to the EU, refused to recognise his presidency. Sixteen UN-recognised countries sent representatives, including Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In 2025, however, only two Presidents – Cuba's Miguel Diaz-Canel and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega – attended. International condemnation of the manner in which Mr. Maduro was declared President after the elections held on July 28, 2024 has been more severe this time around. Since 2019, there has been a new Pink Tide in Latin America with countries such as Colombia, Brazil and Chile electing leftist Presidents. All three leaders have rejected Mr. Maduro's "victory".

Meanwhile, the Opposition candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who exiled himself to Spain and had recently visited two countries ruled by the Right in Latin America – Argentina and Panama – withdrew plans to return to Caracas for his own "inauguration".

The results in question and the process in which Mr. Maduro was declared the winner raise severe doubts about the Venezuelan elections in 2024. The UN, which sent a panel of experts to Caracas, criticised the National Election Council of Venezuela for declaring Mr. Maduro as the winner before providing detailed table-level results.

The electoral system consisted of an electronic voting machine which produced a paper receipt after voters registered their choice at the polling booth. At the end of polling, each machine would print a tally sheet showing the candidates' names and the votes that they received. The National Election Council traditionally put up only the vote counts at the end of the election on its website, but the site was down during the counting and after disputing the results, the Opposition demanded the release of the tally sheets which was not done.

The Opposition could, on its own, access 83% of the tally sheets from 30,026 polling stations, which "revealed" that Mr. Gonzalez polled 67% votes. The CNE's figures were different, favouring Mr. Maduro with 51.95% of the vote to Mr. Gonzalez's 43.2%.

Considering the wide differences on this issue and the fact that the Maduro regime had used intimidatory tactics throughout the election process, several international actors sought the release of the tally sheets to confirm the winner but that was not done.

Economic decline

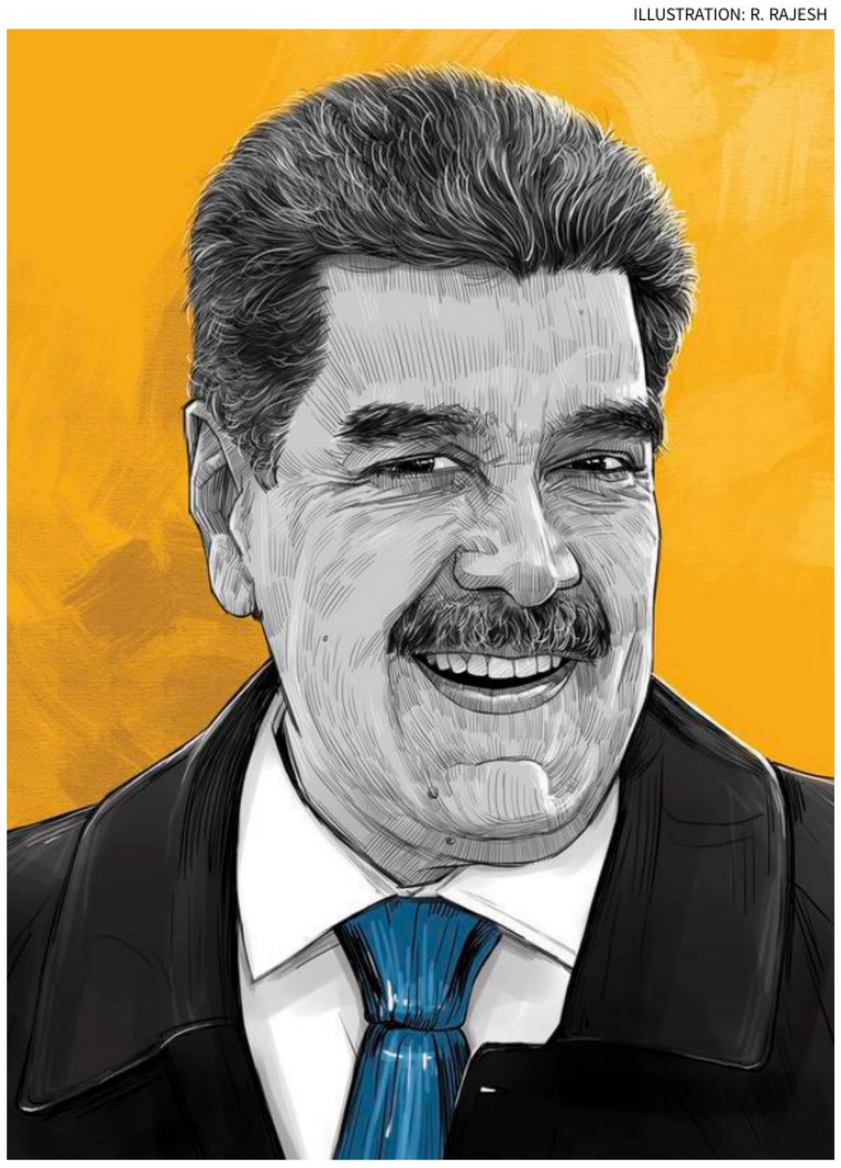
The 11 years of rule by Mr. Maduro has coincided with a significant decline in Venezuela's economic standing, with severe increases in the poverty rate, persistently high inflation and food shortages in the country. While inflation had eased to 23.58% in October 2024, hyperinflation has characterised the economy since 2018.

As of October 2023, the UNHCR estimated that more than 7.7 million Venezuelan citizens fled the country to become refugees and 6.5 million among them (84%) are in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Critics of Mr. Maduro blame the catastrophic economic situation on the stark authoritarian turn since he came to power. Some suggest that the economic decline was inevitable as Venezuela was overly dependent upon the petroleum sector – crude constituted 95% of the country's exports in 2014 and the oil price crash in the same year sent it into a spiral.

Critics argue that the seeds of the economic decline were laid during Chavez's regime, as he tried to undo the remnants of the country's liberal democratic order to create a personalised state with concentrated powers for the executive presidency. The Chavistas instituted a series of measures, including constitutional referendums and structural changes, most of which received popular support as Chavez won several elections. The Chavistas argue that the regime enhanced grassroots participation in the polity and built cooperatives while using the proceeds of the extractive economy to fund pro-poor programmes. And while the regime was cognisant about diversification, the lack of it during the oil price crash resulted in the economic crisis, which was exacerbated by a series of economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the EU after Mr. Maduro came to power.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Since his ascent to power, Mr. Maduro's regime has moved away from a popular regime that was dependent upon grassroots mobilisation and participatory democracy to an authoritarian system.

The first Donald Trump administration in August 2017 imposed sanctions prohibiting the Venezuelan government from accessing U.S. financial markets, a move that affected Venezuela's state-run oil company, PDVSA. The U.S. went on, in 2019, to impose further and direct sanctions on PDVSA, preventing it from being paid for petroleum exports to the U.S, froze its U.S. assets and disallowed the supply of diluents that aided the refining of Venezuelan heavy crude, among other measures.

The U.S.-imposed economic sanctions were compounded by the EU's own embargo on arms and material to be traded with Venezuela, imposed in 2017. Restrictions still remain. The country got a respite when the U.S. eased some sanctions following an agreement signed between Mr. Maduro and representatives of Opposition parties in October 2023 in Barbados with political prisoners being released. The country's oil output saw an increase, resulting in more exports and a partial easing of the severity of the economic situation. However, in April 2024, the U.S. announced that sanctions would be reinstated on the oil sector.

International opprobrium

Just prior to the inauguration of his third term, the U.S. announced a $65-million bounty for the arrest of Mr. Maduro even as he received support from Russia and China apart from staunch allies in Cuba and Nicaragua.

The international opprobrium and increased polarisation in Venezuela is not deterring Mr. Maduro from doubling down on authoritarianism. A proposed law – the Simon Bolivar law – now stipulates severe punishment for dissidents and repression of civil movements. With Mr. Trump returning to power in the U.S., hostilities are set to renew afresh and the biggest casualty could be the millions of Venezuelans pushed into poverty from a combination of poor economic policies, international sanctions and authoritarianism under Mr. Maduro.

THE GIST

- In 2019, when Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for the second time as President, nearly 40 countries refused to recognise his presidency, but 16 countries sent representatives, including Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador
- In 2025, however, only two Presidents — Cuba's Miguel Diaz-Canel and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega — attended Maduro's inauguration
- The Opposition could access 83% of the tally sheets from 30,026 polling stations, which "revealed" that Maduro's opponent Gonzalez polled 67% votes. The official figures were different, favouring Maduro with 51.95% of the vote

Rocket scientist

V. Narayanan

The cryogenic pioneer is taking over ISRO when the agency is working on a series of high-profile missions, from the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme to Chandrayaan-4

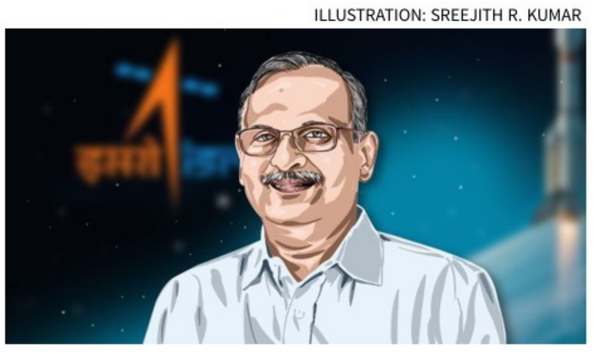
Tiki Rajwi

The first big news from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the New Year seems to have an in-built element of surprise in it. On January 7, V. Narayanan, a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, who heads the ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, was named successor to S. Somanath, the current chairman of the space agency.

The face of ISRO since January 2022, Mr. Somanath is highly regarded, cutting a dynamic and impressive figure, especially with the younger ISRO hands. Insider-speak is that many within the organisation were expecting his term to be extended. Comparisons with his predecessor will be par for the course when Mr. Narayanan, who joined the ISRO 40 years ago, eases into the top spot on January 14.

The change of guard is happening at a critical moment for ISRO, now guided by the Space Vision 2047. On the one hand, a series of high-profile missions are in the works; the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, the Chandrayaan-4 lunar mission, the development of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station – India's own space station – and landing an Indian on the moon by 2040, to name a few. On the other, the Indian space sector is in a state of flux, with the Space Policy, 2023 opening it up to private players.

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Ever since the first U.S.-made Nike-Apache sounding rocket lifted off from Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram, in November 1963, the Indian space programme has largely remained a jealously-guarded government concern.

To his credit, Mr. Narayanan is someone who knows the ins and outs of the ISRO, having joined the space agency's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram in 1984, where he worked on solid propulsion. He moved to the LPSC in 1989 to work on cryogenic propulsion, and has remained there since, initially playing his part, and in subsequent years taking the lead role, in the propulsion aspects of ISRO missions.

As LPSC Director, Mr. Narayanan was leading the development of propulsion systems for the Gaganyaan programme when he was named the next Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, Space Commission, for a period of two years.

Success story

In many ways, his is the quintessential hard-won-success tale, the kind that parents in post-Independence India loved to inspire their children with.

Hailing from a humble background at Melakattuvilai, a village in Kanniyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, young Narayanan attended a nearby Tamil-medium school. Teachers announcing Neil Armstrong's successful 1969 moon landing is part of his childhood memories. He subsequently obtained his M.Tech. in cryogenic engineering in 1989 with a first rank from the IIT, Kharagpur. He took his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering in 2001.

At the ISRO, he has contributed to major missions and projects, including the Chandrayaan series and the successful development of the cryogenic upper stage for the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

The LPSC website describes him as "one of the few cryogenic members who have worked in this area from the beginning, carrying out fundamental research, theoretical and experimental studies and contributing to the successful development and testing of cryogenic sub systems".

One of the tried-and-tested hands of the space agency, Mr. Narayanan comes across as affable and polite. Within the ISRO community, he is viewed as hard-working and tenacious, as someone who gets things done. That his long career has largely been confined to LPSC is seen as a disadvantage, given the fast-evolving, multispeciality nature of present-day space-tech.

Many of the past chairpersons have headed multiple ISRO facilities such the LPSC and VSSC before moving on to the Bengaluru headquarters.

To his advantage, Mr. Narayanan has experience on his side. In the changing, competition-driven global space ecosystem, ISRO has the added responsibility of hand-holding Indian space-tech startups and driving industry participation. As its next Chairman, Mr. Narayanan faces the task of steering the space agency through challenging and happening times.

The island of interest

Greenland

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump says he won't rule out use of military force or coercion to annex or buy the world's largest island

Joan Sony Cherian

On January 1, the King of Denmark unveiled a new coat of arms after more than 50 years. It features the polar bear and the ram (symbolising Greenland and the Faroe Islands, respectively) more prominently than before. Amid calls for independence in Greenland and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's aggressive push to buy/annex the island, the Royal House seems to be underscoring the Danish realm's unity.

Greenland, the world's largest island with a population of 57,000, is an autonomous territory controlled by Denmark. This effectively means that while it has a Parliament which deals with domestic affairs such as business taxes, immigration, and mining, most of its foreign, monetary and military policy are dictated by Denmark. The Arctic island was colonised by the Danes in the 18th century and has been associated with Europe, though geographically it is part of the North American continent and closer to the U.S. than Copenhagen.

During the Second World War, the U.S. briefly occupied the region and defended it when Denmark was under siege by Nazi Germany.

Noting the region's geopolitical importance, the U.S. in 1946, after the War, had offered to buy it from Denmark. Denmark rejected the offer and ever since Greenland has been a part of the Danish realm with home rule granted to the island in 1979. The U.S. runs and operates an air base on the island. However, of late, calls for complete independence from Denmark have been rising in the island. Greenland's Prime Minister Múte Egede in his New Year address talked about taking the "next step" and removing the "shackles of colonialism".

GRAPHICNEWS

Greenland, with a population of 57,000, is an autonomous territory controlled by Denmark

U.S. aspirations

In his first term in office, Mr. Trump had floated the idea of buying Greenland. However, this time it seems the President-elect is serious. "For purposes of National Security and Freedom throughout the World, the United States of America feels that the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity," he said in December. Following such a declaration, Donald Trump Jr., Mr. Trump's son, visited Greenland this year as a "private individual". Both Greenland and Danish Prime Ministers have shut down such threats and plans. Mr. Egede has categorically stated that "Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders".

Mr. Trump seems unfazed. Speaking to the press last week, Mr. Trump said he won't rule out military or economic coercion to annex/buy the island.

The island is surrounded by the Atlantic on one side and the Arctic waters on the other. Due to climate change and global warming, glaciers and ice sheets in the Arctic Sea are melting, leading to potentially new shipping routes, which could greatly enhance trade. Moreover, Russia and China have already agreed to develop new trading routes in the Arctic waters as relations with the West sour and tensions in West Asia loom large.

Last November, both countries developed a subcommittee for cooperation on the northern sea route, which spans 5,600 km from the Barents Sea near Scandinavia to the Bering Strait near Alaska. With the threat of Russia-China cooperation in the region, annexing Greenland could give the U.S. significant control over the area, letting it decide who gets to run and operate in these strategic waters.

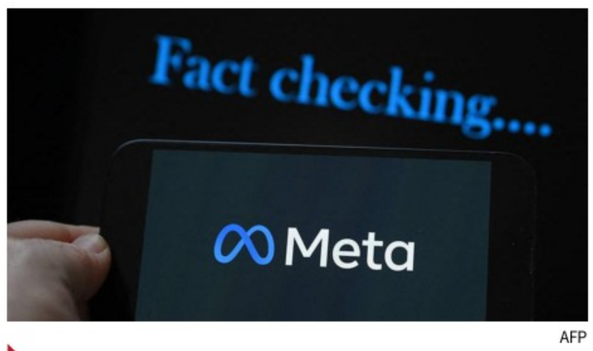
The island is also rich in minerals. As per a 2025 survey, 25 of 34 critical raw materials, which are used in EVs and batteries, were found in Greenland. The melting of almost 28,000 square km of Greenland's ice sheets makes drilling for oil, gas and other critical raw materials easier. Currently, China is the world's largest exporter and producer of critical minerals. Buying Greenland could make the U.S. compete with China for that status.

Mr. Trump has also issued calls to buy/annex the Panama Canal and Canada. While all of them have been touted as necessary for the U.S.'s economic and national security, the U.S. is breaking the first and fundamental rule of the UN Charter: recognising the sovereignty of nations. With respect to Greenland, the U.S. is going against the NATO agreement as well.

Similarly, the Arctic waters are a global common under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The incoming U.S. President's policies are bringing to the forefront the true anarchical nature of international politics.

WASHINGTON

Biden blasts 'shameful' decision by Meta to scrap U.S. fact-checking



AFP

U.S. President Joe Biden blasted Meta for scrapping fact-checking in the U.S. , calling the move "really shameful" after a global network warned of real-world harm if the tech giant expands its decision to other countries. "Telling the truth matters," he said, adding that the move was "completely contrary to everything America's about." AFP

SEOUL

Jeju Air jet black boxes stopped recording before crash: S. Korea

AFP

The black boxes holding the flight data and cockpit voice recorders for the crashed Jeju Air flight that left 179 people dead stopped recording four minutes before the disaster, South Korea's Transport Ministry said. "Plans are in place to investigate the cause of the data loss during the investigation," the Ministry said. AFP

KYIV

Ukraine says it is questioning two captured North Korean soldiers

AFP

Ukraine said investigators were questioning two wounded North Korean soldiers after they were captured in Russia's Kursk region, saying they provided "indisputable evidence" that North Koreans were fighting for Moscow. In December, Ukraine had said it took several troops captive but they died from serious wounds. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan, China to further deepen ties for CPEC 2.0 development

ISTOCKPHOTO

Pakistan and China vowed to deepen their "all-weather strategic" partnership, including work on the "high-quality development" of the second phase of the China Pakistan Economic Partnership. The announcement was made at the fourth round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) in Beijing on Friday. PTI

China, U.K. resume talks on finance after six years

Associated Press
TAIPEI

China and Britain restarted economic and financial talks on Saturday after a six-year hiatus during a visit by Britain's Treasury chief to Beijing, as the U.K.'s Labour government seeks to reset strained ties with the world's second-largest economy.

Accompanied by a delegation of British business executives and finance officials, Chancellor Rachel Reeves met with Chinese leaders, including Vice Premier He Lifeng and Vice President Han Zheng. Ms. Reeves emphasised the need for a "stable, pragmatic" U.K.-China relationship as she wrapped up talks in Beijing.

Deals inked

The two nations inked agreements on Saturday in areas such as finance "worth £600 million over the next five years for the U.K. economy," Ms. Reeves said without outlining the specifics of the deals.

Violence was mostly political in nature: Bangladesh Police

In a report, the police state that only 20 incidents had communal undertones, while 1,234 cases were politically motivated; at least 35 held while 61 complaints were found to be false, it says

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Bangladesh Police have filed a report based on a complaint by the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Unity Council that claimed that a total of 1,769 communal attacks had taken place since August 2024 following the ouster of then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. However, it argued that "majority" of the cases were "not communally motivated" but had "political" overtones. The report claimed while 1,234 incidents were political in nature, 20 incidents were communal.

"Police have communicated with the persons and authorities claimed to have been the targets of the violence. The police have also visited all and every place, establishment, and persons mentioned in the report of the Council. Proper security of the aggrieved people has been ensured," the Bangladesh Police report has stated.

Fallout: A total of 1,769 communal attacks had taken place since August 2024 following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. REUTERS

However a major claim of the police, previously accused of failing to discharge its duties, is that "It was found that in the majority of the cases, the attacks were not communally motivated – rather, those were political in nature".

"At least 161 claims were found to be false or untrue," the report has claimed.

According to the report that was shared with *The Hindu,* at least 35 culprits have been arrested and out of the 1,769 allegations, the police have registered 62 cases on the merits of the complaints. The police have collected the list of allegations prepared by the council and urged "all aggrieved persons" to lodge complaints with the police. The interim government led by Professor Mohammad Yunus on Saturday asserted that it has "zero tolerance" of communal violence in Bangladesh.

The police administration system in Bangladesh had broken down in the immediate aftermath of the fall of the Hasina government. It was against this backdrop that the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Unity Council decided to record every act of violence against minority religious communities, especially the Hindus who were perceived to be supporters of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League.

The report further informed that the police received additional complaints of 134 communal incidents in Bangladesh that took place during August 5, 2024 to January 8, 2025. Out of these incidents, at least 53 cases have been filed and 65 perpetrators have been arrested in these cases.

Los Angeles fires expand as winds forecast to pick up

No respite: A helicopter drops water on the Palisades Fire behind a home with Christmas lights in Mandeville Canyon in Los Angeles. AP

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

The largest of the Los Angeles fires spread toward previously untouched neighborhoods on Saturday, forcing new evacuations and dimming hopes that the disaster was coming under control.

Across the city, at least 11 persons have died as multiple fires have ripped through residential areas since Tuesday, razing thousands of homes in destruction that U.S. President Joe Biden likened to a "war scene."

Winds were forecast to pick up again on Saturday after a brief lull, posing the risk of new fires as embers are blown into dry brush.

Los Angeles residents have increasingly demanded to know who is at fault for the disaster as they grapple with the ruin.

As reports of looting grew, a sunset-to-sunrise curfew was imposed in evacuated areas.

Five separate fires have so far burned more than 37,000 acres, destroying around 12,000 buildings.

Musk, former EU tech chief Breton spar over Germany

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Elon Musk escalated a spat on Saturday with the former EU digital chief Thierry Breton, describing him as a "tyrant of Europe".

His latest outburst against Mr. Breton came after he said Europe could take action to avoid interference in elections.

An account shared an excerpt of Mr. Breton's interview claiming he said "the EU has mechanisms to nullify a potential election victory of the AfD", prompting Mr. Musk to rail at what he termed "the astounding absurdity of Thierry Breton as tyrant of Europe."

Mr. Breton rejected the claim in an X post. "The EU has NO mechanism to nullify any election. Not at all what is said in the video below related only to the application of the DSA"

The DSA is the landmark EU's Digital Services Act, which demands platforms clamp down on illegal content online.

China's Wang Yi visits Maldives, holds talks with President Muizzu

Press Trust of India
BEIJING/MALE

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to the Maldives, during which he held talks with President Mohamed Muizzu and discussed the state of bilateral relations, amid Male's recent warming up to India.

Mr. Wang, who is also a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the Communist Party, met Mr. Muizzu during his stopover in Male on Friday while on his way back from a tour, official media reported.

First major visit

This was the first major visit by a Chinese official to the Maldives after Mr. Muizzu visited China in January last year, months after his election.

During Mr. Muizzu's visit, the two countries elevated the bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and signed some key agreements.

In his meeting with Mr. Wang, Mr. Muizzu stressed the importance of fast-tracking key infrastructure projects outlined in the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the two countries, Maldives media reported.

He emphasised the need to prioritise social housing and road development projects, which are among the most urgent requirements for the Maldivian people, and referred to China's commitments in this regard.

Muizzu sought to expedite social housing and road development schemes

Additionally, Mr. Muizzu highlighted his administration's focus on economic diversification, particularly in agriculture and fisheries, and requested China's support in advancing these crucial sectors.

Mr. Muizzu said he was glad to see Chinese people becoming the largest source of tourists for the Maldives in recent months.

Mr. Wang said that Muizzu's successful state visit to China was a highlight in China-Maldives relations.

Joint commitment

During the visit last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Mr. Muizzu agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and jointly commit to building a China-Maldives community with a shared future, which has laid out broad prospects for bilateral relations, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Mr. Wang praised Mr. Muizzu's development vision for the Maldives and reiterated China's ongoing support for the country's sustainable development.

OFFICE OF THE RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR

Short Term Notice Inviting Bid (42/2024-25)

Bids for collection of user fee on "Losal-Salasar-Ratangarh section of SH-07 & 92 Km 0+000 (Losal) to Km 32+321 (Nechhwa) and Km 45+968 (Salasar) to Km 91+995 (Ratangarh)" are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 15.01.2025. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, htpp://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is **₹ 5,39,39,718/-**

UBN: PWD2425SLOB13487

DIPR/C/501/2025 **(A.K.Jain) Member (C & PPP)**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम, जोधपुर
Tel: 0291-2651750, Email: rj_acejo@nic.in

क्रमांक: अमुअ/जो./प्रथम/24-25/9739-9755 दिनांक: 03.01.2025

बिड संशोधन सूचना, NIB संख्या 07-08/2024-25

इस कार्यालय की निविदा संख्या 07-08/2024-25 के निविदा प्रपत्र में संशोधन https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।

1. निविदा संख्या 07/24-25 **(UBIN No.: PHE2425WLOB07155), (Tender ID: 2024_PHCJO_437790_1)**
2. निविदा संख्या 08/24-25 **(UBIN No.: PHE2425WLOB07156), (Tender ID: 2024_PHCJO_437802_1)**

(जुगल किशोर करवा),
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/368/2025 जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र प्रथम, जोधपुर

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E-mail:rajsico@rajasthan.gov.in CIN:- U91110RJ1961SGC001118

NOTICE INVITING BIDS
UBN No. : RSI2425SLOB00040

RSIC is inviting online Bids for selection of **"Strategic Business promoter to Equip, Operate, Manage & Transfer Business Services at ICD Jodhpur from the eligible and experienced bidders"** up to 5.00 PM dated 10.02.2025

Other details/ terms and condition of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (**https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state

The approximate value of the procurement is INR 25 Crores.

UBN No : RSI2425SLOB00040

Raj.Samwad/C/24/10202 **Managing Director**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र–पाली
E-Mail : acephedpali@rajasthan.gov.in

कमाक अमुअ/जन.स्वा./क्षेत्र पाली/त.स./24–25/ दिनांक :–

बिड संशोधन सूचना (NIB) संख्या 01 एवं 04/2024–25

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक अमुअ/जन.स्वा./क्षेत्र पाली/त.स./24–25/राजकाज रेफ. नं. 12471697 दिनांक 17.12.2024 द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 01/2024–25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB07274), निविदा संख्या 02/2024–25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB07275), निविदा संख्या 03/2024–25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB07276), निविदा संख्या 04/2024–25 (UBIN No. PHE2425WLOB07277) के तकनिकी दस्तावेज एवं तिथियों मे आवश्यक संशोधन जारी किया जाकर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।

	NIB No. 01/2024-25		NIB No. 02/2024-25		NIB No. 03/2024-25		NIB No. 04/2024-25	
	Existing Date	Amended Date	Existing Date	Amended Date	Existing Date	Amended Date	Existing Date	Amended Date
Availability of Bid Document	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM	18-12-2024 03:00 PM
Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	26-12-2024 3:00 PM	26-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM	24-12-2024 3:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM	30-12-2024 3:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Download of Bid	20-01-2025 5:00 PM	05-02-2025 5:00 PM	30-01-2025 5:00 PM	13-02-2025 5:00 PM	05.02.2025 5:00 PM	10.02.2025 5:00 PM	11.02.2025 5:00 PM	11.02.2025 5:00 PM
Last date & time for Online Submission of Bid	20-01-2025 6:00 PM	05-02-2025 6:00 PM	30-01-2025 6:00 PM	13-02-2025 6:00 PM	05-02-2025 6:00 PM	10-02-2025 6:00 PM	11-02-2025 6:00 PM	11-02-2025 6:00 PM
Last date & time for physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	21-01-2025 11:00 AM	06-02-2025 11:00 AM	31-01-2025 11:00 AM	14-02-2025 11:00 AM	06-02-2025 11:00 AM	11-02-2025 11:00 AM	12-02-2025 11:00 AM	12-02-2025 11:00 AM
Date of online opening of Technical Bids	21-01-2025 3:00 PM	06-02-2025 3:00 PM	31-01-2025 3:00 PM	14-02-2025 3:00 PM	06-02-2025 3:00 PM	11-02-2025 3:00 PM	12-02-2025 3:00 PM	12-02-2025 3:00 PM

(जगदीश चन्द्र व्यास)
DIPR/C/396/2025 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र–पाली

THE HINDU GROUP

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THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2025

THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA

In association with CHRIST

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Which German author and translator duo won the 2024 International Booker Prize for the novel Kairos?
2. P.G. Wodehouse's iconic vale was named after Warwickshire cricketer Percy _____, whose impeccable bowling inspired the author. Fill in the blanks.
3. Name the South Korean author who won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024.

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/LFL2025QZ** take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Poomani | 2. Neerathikaaram | 3. Tommy and Tuppence Beresford

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mithun Singh, Faridabad | 2. Srinithi Thirupathi, Madurai | 3. Rajeev Kumar,

IN THE RECORD BOOKS

Monfils becomes oldest singles champion in ATP Tour history

AP

Gael Monfils became the oldest singles champion in ATP Tour history when the 38-year-old Frenchman swept to victory in the final of the Auckland Classic. Monfils beat Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs 6-3, 6-4, to eclipse Roger Federer in the record books. Federer was two months younger when he won the Swiss Indoors in 2019.

SECOND TITLE

Kessler upsets Mertens to clinch the Hobart WTA crown

GETTY IMAGES

Rising American McCartney Kessler upset two-time champion Elise Mertens to win the Hobart International and secure her second WTA title on Saturday with a battling 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 victory. The world No. 67 needed just over two hours to topple the 34th-ranked Belgian, who won her first two crowns in Hobart in 2017 and 2018.

PERFECT PREP

Auger-Aliassime and Keys emerge triumphant in Adelaide

GETTY IMAGES & AFP

Felix Auger-Aliassime and Madison Keys completed the perfect preparation for the Australian Open, winning at the Adelaide International on Saturday. Keys upset top seed Jessica Pegula 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 to win the event for a second time. Auger-Aliassime fired 10 aces to beat Sebastian Korda 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 for his sixth career trophy.

SOME CHEER

Consolation win for Sri Lanka as New Zealand batters fumble

AFP

Sri Lanka razed New Zealand's top-order on Saturday to comfortably win the third ODI in Auckland by 140 runs and salvage a lone victory in the series.
The scores: Sri Lanka 290/8 in 50 overs (Nissanka 66, Henry 4/55) bt New Zealand 150 in 29.4 overs (Chapman 81).

Toofans edge past a fighting Soorma Club

Hyderabad outfit wins shootout 4-3 and claims a bonus point for its third victory; goalkeeper Dixon, dragflicker Amandeep play a key role; UP Rudras bounces back to defeat Delhi Pipers

HIL

Y.B. Sarangi
ROURKELA

Young drag-flicker Amandeep Lakra scored the equaliser and goalkeeper Dominic Dixon made some vital saves in the penalty shootout as Hyderabad Toofans edged out JSW Soorma Club via sudden death in a cliff-hanger in the Hockey India League at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Saturday.

Following a 1-1 draw in the regulation period, Toofans held their nerve to win the shootout 4-3 and claimed an important bonus point from their third win.

On target: Amandeep played a key role for the Hyderabad Toofans. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Missed chances

Toofans made more circle entries but could not make the most of a couple of chances in the opening quarter. Soorma's attacks looked more effective. Nicolas della Torre earned the first penalty corner and converted it too in the eighth minute.

His drag-flick got deflected off Toofans' first rusher's stick to beat goalkeeper Vikas Dahiya.

Against some gritty and clinical defence of Soorma, Toofans continued to grapple with their finishing woes and wasted at least three more field goal opportunities in the second quarter.

Arshdeep Singh missed a sitter. Later, Darshan Gawkar and Talwinder Singh also wasted chances.

Toofans thwarted Soorma's second short corner before converting their first, thanks to two local lads, to level the scores in the penultimate quarter.

Shilanand Lakra fed perfectly and Amandeep made no mistake in putting it past seasoned custodian Vincent Vanasch's right.

Toofans pressed hard to create more chances but could not find success.

Soorma, who missed the services of Harmanpreet Singh after the team's captain injured his left leg with a minute and 47 seconds left, earned two more short corners in the closing seconds, but Toofans foiled those to take the contest to the tie-breaker.

The deadlock continued as both goalkeepers, Vanasch and Dixon, did well in the first five shots of the shootouts.

Zachary Wallace found the target, while Nicolas Poncelet shot wide in sudden death to the delight of Toofans.

In the other match, UP Rudras rallied to defeat Delhi SG Pipers 3-1 and scripted its third victory.

The results: Hyderabad Toofans 1 (Amandeep 40) drew with JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1 (della Torre 8) (*Toofans bt Soorma 4-3 in shootout*).
UP Rudras 3 (Wortelboer 30, Russell 43, Tanguy 54) bt Delhi SG Pipers 1 (Whetton 29).

Shami returns to India squad; Axar is Suryakumar's deputy

ENG IN IND

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mohammed Shami will return to international cricket after a prolonged injury hiatus. The pacer was picked in India's 15-member squad for the five-match T20I series against England, starting January 22.

The national selection panel met here in person on Saturday to finalise the squad and take stock of the Indian cricket team.

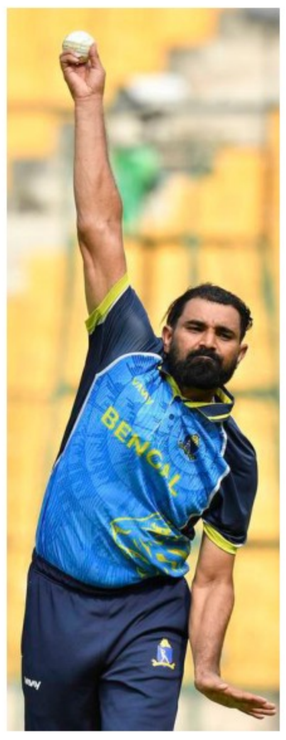
The Hindu understands that Shami, who last featured for India during the 2023 World Cup final, is also set to be picked in the provisional squad for the Champions Trophy.

However, with Shami's ankle and knee injury having taken much longer than expected to heal, the selectors and the team management will keep a keen eye on the pacer's match fitness during the England white-ball series.

Update on Bumrah

It is understood that the selectors will finalise the squad for the three ODIs against England next week since they are keeping a close watch on the Vijay Hazare Trophy knockouts and are also awaiting a medical update on Jasprit Bumrah.

Besides Shami's return, Dhruv Jurel has been preferred as the reserve wicketkeeper, with Rishabh Pant rested along with most of the squad members in Australia.



Shami.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Nitish Kumar Reddy, who has been the find of an otherwise forgettable season so far, has been preferred in place of Shivam Dube as the second pace-bowling allrounder.

Interestingly, Axar Patel has been announced as Suryakumar Yadav's deputy for the T20Is.

Axar is also expected to be handed the captaincy by his Indian Premier League franchise Delhi Capitals for the forthcoming edition.

Immediately after the selection meeting, the BCCI had a meeting to take stock of a disastrous season of Test cricket and plan the way forward.

The meeting was attended by Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma, head coach Gautam Gambhir, chief selector Ajit Agarkar, secretary-in-waiting Devajit Saikia and former secretary Jay Shah.

All the personnel were huddled together at a south Mumbai hotel, before Shah's felicitation by the BCCI for having been elected as the International Cricket Council chair.

Transition

It is understood that the meeting discussed the role of the coaching staff and contemplated charting out the transition of the longer format squads. Neither Rohit nor Virat Kohli – both out of form – are in danger of their place being questioned for the Champions Trophy.

The squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (Vice-capt.), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk).
The schedule (T20Is):
Jan 22: Kolkata; **Jan 25:** Chennai; **Jan 28:** Rajkot.
Jan 31: Pune; **Feb 2:** Mumbai.

Fielding in focus as Women In Blue look to seal the deal

Press Trust of India
RAJKOT

Following a commanding performance by the youngsters in the opener, India will eye another clinical display from them to seal the three-match series when it faces Ireland in the second women's ODI here on Sunday.

Captain Smriti Mandhana continued her fine form, laying the foundation with a forceful 41, while the efforts of Pratika Rawal and Tejal Hasabnis were crucial.

Titas Sadhu stepped up, striking in her first spell. Sayali Satghare also impressed while Saima Thakor bowled a tidy 10-over spell.

However, India's fielding was subpar in the first ODI.

The squads (from): India: Smriti Mandhana (Capt.), Deepti Sharma (Vice-capt.), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, and Sayali Satghare.
Ireland: Gaby Lewis (Capt.), Ava Canning, Christina Coulter Reilly, Alana Dalzell, Laura Delany, Georgina Dempsey, Sarah Forbes, Arlene Kelly, Joanna Loughran, Aimee Maguire, Leah Paul, Orla Prendergast, Una Raymond-Hoey, Freya Sargent and Rebecca Stokell. *Match starts at 11 a.m.*

A cautiously optimistic beginning to Women's HIL

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

The Women's Hockey India League (HIL-W) would hope that the bumpy ride from the garage to the start line fades into a distant memory before lights-out here on Sunday.

This is the first time an exclusive league for women has found a place in the HIL framework, paving the way for a more inclusive future for Indian hockey.

With the inclusion of two more franchises deferred until next season, only 96 players could be slotted into Delhi SG Pipers, JSW Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rahr Bengal Tigers, and Odisha Warriors.

The franchises will play each other twice in the pool stage, with the first match set to be played between the Warriors and Pipers. The top two teams will clash in the finale on January 26. In its efforts to popularise the event, HI has decided to forego revenue from ticket sales by making entry free for all.

Big guns target glory as action begins at Melbourne Park

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agencies
MELBOURNE

The Australian Open begins in Melbourne on Sunday, with the world's top players competing for glory in the year's first Grand Slam.

Aryna Sabalenka, who is going for a third straight title at Melbourne Park, faces Sloane Stephens while men's world No. 2 Alexander Zverev launches another bid for his first Grand Slam crown when he takes on wild card Lucas Pouille.

Sabalenka begins her title defence against the 2017 U.S. Open champion, and the Belarusian world No. 1 is in strong form after kicking off the season with a trophy in Brisbane.

Aiming to become the first woman since Martina Hingis in 1999 to win three straight Australian Open titles, Sabalenka has beaten Stephens in all four of their previous meetings.

She has also been dominant in hardcourt Grand Slams in recent years, boasting a 27-1 record since the start of 2023.

Gearing up: Sabalenka has been in red-hot form in the lead up to the tournament. REUTERS

Top Picks
Men: 2-Zverev vs Pouille; 6-Ruud vs Munar; 20-Fils vs Virtanen; 26-Machac vs Nagal
Women: 1-Sabalenka vs Stephens; 5-Zheng vs Todoni; 11-Badosa vs Wang; 14-Andreeva vs Bouzkova

Grand Slam success has so far eluded Zverev but after a 2024 season in which he won the Masters 1000 titles in Rome and Paris and reached the French Open final, the German is once again among the favourites in the men's draw.

He will be hoping to improve on last year's semifinal run at Melbourne Park during which he defeated Carlos Alcaraz.

Novak Djokovic is targeting an 11th Australian Open title and record 25th Grand Slam crown but faces an uphill battle against Jannik Sinner and Alcaraz.

Djokovic may be 37 but the Serb can never be written off on Melbourne Park, where he has enjoyed enormous success.

Italian Sinner won his maiden Grand Slam title in Australia last year, beating Daniil Medvedev in the final, and went on to establish himself as the undisputed world No. 1.

But the 23-year-old's season was rocked by doping accusations that he denies.

Punjab men set up title clash with holder TN

Sports Bureau

Punjab beat Railways 69-63 to set up the title clash against defending champion Tamil Nadu in the men's section of the 74th National basketball championship in Bhavnagar on Saturday. The women's final will be between Railways and Kerala.

The results: Men: Semifinals: Punjab 69 (Nawaz Singh Panaich 16, Kanwar Gurbaz Singh Sandhu 15, Amritpal Singh 15) bt Railways 63 (Sahaj Pratap Sigh Sekhon 16, Palpreet Singh 14, Tushal Singh 14).
Tamil Nadu 78 (Anantharaj 17, Aravind Kumar Muthukrishnan 16, Muin Bek Hafeez 12) bt Karnataka 51 (Samanth Sathyanarayan 13, Abhishek Gowda 11). **Quarterfinals:** Railways 79 (Sahaj Pratap Singh Sekhon 11, Sahil Kalyan 11, Princepal Singh 11) bt Rajasthan 53 (Sharad Dadich 14).
Women: Semifinals: Kerala 69 (R. Sreekala 18, Susan Florentina 12, Swapna Merin Jiju 12) bt Delhi 62 (Namrata 17, Garima Goswami 15); Railways 85 (K. Sathya 18, Dharshini Thirunavukkarasu 14, P. Priyanka 14) bt Tamil Nadu 62 (Ashmitha 16, C.S. Anumaria 13). **Quarterfinals:** Kerala 68 (R. Sreekala 16, Irin John 11, Susan Florentina 10) bt Maharashtra 27.

Mohammedan pulls off a stunning win over Bengaluru

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Mohammedan SC pulled off a stunning heist as it snatched a 1-0 win over Bengaluru FC in the ISL at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

Mirjalol Kasimov's superb free-kick from just outside the penalty area in the 88th minute beat Gurpreet Singh Sandhu at the near post to hand BFC its first home defeat of the season.

The victory - only the visitors' second of the campaign, both away - came on the back of two goalless draws, and lifted Andrey Chernyshov's wards from the bottom of the table into 12th position (10 points) above Hyderabad FC.

BFC remained second (27 points) but its fourth loss in the last nine fixtures will hamper its chances of a top-two finish, with FC Goa and Jamshedpur FC breathing down its neck.

The host will rue the chances attackers Alberto Noguera and substitute Shivaldo Singh missed from point-blank range in the first and second periods respectively. But it shouldn't mask what was a largely subdued performance from BFC.

Mohammedan didn't quite impress. Defender Florent Ogier nearly turned one into his own net in the first half while midfielder Alexis Gomez lost the ball routinely from promising positions.

Killer blow

But the Kolkata side stayed tight when it mattered and landed the killer blow to ensure that this new year has so far been without blemish.

Job done: Mohammedan SC players are ecstatic after the final whistle. K. MURALI KUMAR

PTI reports from Guwahati

Riding on Jamie Maclaren's record second-minute goal, Mohun Bagan SG extended its dominance in the Kolkata derby with a 1-0 win over East Bengal FC. Maclaren scored the fastest goal of the Kolkata derby in ISL and it was enough for the reigning champion to edge its arch-rival, while going eight points clear (35) at the top.

The results:

At Bengaluru: Bengaluru 0 lost to Mohammedan 1 (Kasimov 88).

At Guwahati: MBSG 1 (Maclaren 2) bt East Bengal 0.

INBRIEF

Atalanta misses chance to top Serie A with Udinese draw

Atalanta missed the chance to move provisionally top of Serie A on Saturday after being held to a goalless draw at Udinese which left it two points behind league leader Napoli.

The results: Serie A: Empoli 1 (Cacace 47) lost to Lecce 3 (Morente 6, Krstovic 11, 90+1); Udinese 0 drew with Atalanta 0. **LaLiga:** Alaves 0 lost to Girona 1 (Solis 90+1); Rayo Vallecano 2 (Embarba 5, De Frutos 63) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 26). **Bundesliga:** Hoffenheim 0 lost to Wolfsburg 1 (Amoura 29); Heidenheim 2 (Kratzig 17, Beck 83) bt Union Berlin 0; Freiburg 3 (Remberg 23-og, Gunter 38, Grifo 74) bt Holstein Kiel 2 (Harres 85, 90); Mainz 2 (Burkardt 23, 69) bt Bochum 0; St. Pauli 0 lost to Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Marmoush 32).

Satwik & Chirag lose in Malaysia Open semifinals

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament came to an end following a 10-21, 15-21 loss to Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals, in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Triple crown for Ankur in boys' table tennis

Bengal's Ankur Bhattacharjee completed a treble, winning the u-19 boys' singles and doubles titles to go with the team title West Bengal clinched the other day, in the 86th UTT junior and youth National table tennis championships here on Saturday.

The results (finals): Boys: U-19: Ankur Bhattacharjee bt P.B. Abhinandh 11-4, 8-11, 13-11, 11-7, 11-7; **Doubles:** Ankur & Shankadip Das bt Punit Biswas & Oishik Ghosh 12-10, 8-11, 11-4, 11-4. **U-17:** P.B. Abhinandh bt Punit Biswas 11-9, 3-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-9; **Doubles:** Abhinandh & S. Sriram bt Atherva Gupta & Sarthak Arya 5-11, 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 11-7.

Padikkal slams hundred as Karnataka edges Baroda

Opener Rawat's maiden List A ton goes in vain for the home side; speedster Koushik and leg-spinner Shreyas strike timely blows to take their team into the semifinals

HAZARE TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
VADODARA

Devdutt Padikkal kicked off the new year in style by slamming a breezy 102 (99b, 15x4, 2x6) and headlined Karnataka's five-run win over Baroda in a closely fought quarterfinal match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here at the Motibaug Cricket ground on Saturday.

Asked to bat first, Karnataka managed 281 for eight after Padikkal and K.V. Aneesh (52) laid the foundation through their 133-run second-wicket partnership.

In reply, Baroda opener Shashwat Rawat (104, 126b, 9x4, 1x6) shepherded the chase expertly, scoring his maiden List A hundred. He found able allies in Atit Sheth (56) and Krunal Pandya (30), whose contributions kept the home side in the hunt for most of the chase.

However, pacer V. Koushik (two for 39) and leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal (two for 38) gave timely breakthroughs during the middle-overs to get the southern giant back into the contest.

Shreyas removed Sheth while Koushik had Krunal caught behind by keeper K.L. Shrijith, who took a superb one-handed catch diving to his left. Their disciplined bowling prevented Baroda from scoring a boundary for more than 10 overs and pushed the asking rate to nearly 10.

Despite Rawat's heroics and some useful cameos from Bhanu Pania (22) and Bhargav Bhatt (20), Baroda was bowled out off the penultimate delivery of the match. Needing seven off two, Bhargav slogged to the leg-side and tried to complete a double to retain strike but was run out, much to the disappointment of hundreds of fans cheering for the host.

Free-flowing knock: Padikkal was in his element as he brought up his ninth List A century. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Earlier, Padikkal was at his free-flowing best, clearing the in-field with lofted drives and square cuts. He quickly brought up his half-century off just 51 balls. From there, the 24-year-old stepped up a gear and smashed the spinners to all corners of the park.

He used his feet well against Mahesh Pithiya to target the leg-side, collecting a handful of boundaries and a maximum over long-on. He also swept well and moved to the 90s by lofting Raj Limbani over long-off for his second six and reached his ninth List-A ton in just 96 balls.

Limbani and Sheth then helped Baroda dry up the runs, taking three wickets each. However, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas and Prasidh Krishna hit a flurry of boundaries in the climactic stage of the innings to help their team get 69 runs in the last 10 overs. Those runs proved decisive in a game of fine margins.

The scores: Karnataka 281/8 in 50 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 102, K.V. Aneesh 52, Raj Limbani 3/47, Atit Sheth 3/41) bt Baroda 276 in 49.5 overs (Shashwat Rawat 104, Atit Sheth 56).

Maharashtra 275/6 in 50 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 107, Ankeet Bawane 60, Nikhil Naik 52 n.o., Arshdeep Singh 3/56) bt Punjab 205 in 44.4 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 48, Arshdeep Singh 49, Mukesh Choudhary 3/44).

Jincy's century helps Team-B get the better of Team-D

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Jincy George (104, 119b, 13x4) and Arushi Goel (55 n.o., 81b, 4x4) helped Team-B cruise to a five-wicket victory over Team-D in the BCCI Senior Women One Day Challenger Trophy on Saturday.

The scores:
At MAC: Team-E 147 in 47.4 overs (Soumya Tiwari 57) lost to Team-C 148/5 in 31.3 overs (Tripti Singh 32, Yastika Bhatia 52).
At SSN: Team-D 235 in 48.5 overs (Vrushali Bhagat 75, M. Dakshini 30, Isha Pathare 3/41) lost to Team-B 237/6 in 47 overs (Jincy George 104, Arushi Goel 55 n.o.).

Jincy George (Team-B, 104).

Grand treble for Ashad Pasha

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashad Pasha clocked the fastest time, besides winning a triple crown in the South Zone qualifier of the FMSCI-National autocross championship at the Madras International Circuit here on Saturday.

Provisional results: INAC1 Class B: 1. Kiran Reddy (02:39.825).
INAC1 Class C: 1. Ashad Pasha (02:28.615); 2. Amandeep Singh (02:57.160); 3. Ashish Gupta (03:08.219).
INAC2 Class B: 1. Ashad (02:35.871); 2. Kartik Konchady (02:50.345).
INAC2 Class C: 1. Ashad (02:29.400); 2. Areeb Rahman (02:41.547); 3. Saneesh Sharma (02:43.353).
INAC2 Class E: 1. Nameer Pasha (02:36.185); 2. Areeb Rahman (02:37.118); 3. Saneesh Sharma (02:41.330).
INAC3 Stock Class A: 1. Amey Desai (02:52.865); 2. Konchady (02:55.585); 3. Karan Panikar (02:56.968).
INAC3 Stock Class B: 1. Kushal Chaudhari (02:51.735); 2. Althaf Hussain (03:14.388).
INAC3 Stock Class C: 1. Konchady (02:41.524); 2. Desai (02:49.772); 3. Sravan Kumar Kuttoor (03:01.017).
INAC3 Stock Class E: 1. Karan Chaudhary (02:39.694); 2. Desai (02:46.588); 3. Kushal Chaudhari (02:55.132).
Ladies Open: 1. Pallavi Yadav (03:30.081); 2. Reshma Inchalkar (03:44.312).
4WD Open: 1. Raunak Jana (02:44.311); 2. Kuttoor (02:50.769). **Amateur:** 1. Nameer (02:35.441sec); 2. Ashish Gupta (03:45.346).

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Nitish Arya smashes 233

BENGALURU: Nitish Arya smashed 233 as President's XI secured the first-innings lead over Mofussil XI in a drawn KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament encounter.

The scores: Mofussil XI 259/7 in 90 overs(Ruhaan Shaikh 38, Skandha D. Shetty 61, H.G. Preetham 52, Alan K. Vinay 52 n.o.) drew with President's XI 416/8 in 90 overs (Saad Rayyan Khan 34, Nitish Arya 233, M. Tanshh Krishna 57, Shamanth K.C. Raju 31, Y.S. Ayush 5/57).

Bangalore City XI 221 in 65.1 overs (R. Rohith Reddy 33, Aaryan Nagesh 26, B. Amol Pai 48, S. Vidhat 36, Vedanth Vedanarayanan 51, Arjun Balu 3/46, Purab Soni 3/37) & 98/2 in 23.1 overs (R. Rohith Reddy 60, Panshul Sharma 28 n.o.) drew with Combined City XI 233 in 72.2 overs (Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 42, Narasimha 47, Niranjan Srinivas 41 n.o., Paarth Madan 4/66).

Combined Mofussil XI 310/6 in 90 overs (S.N. Avaneesha 133, Aayat Rahim Khan 81, R. Shivaraj 62) drew with Bangalore Zone 331/5 in 90 overs (Vivaan Balamahesh 120, Athreya Bhat 52, Aaryansinh Chavda 49, Ruchitaksh Indrekar 33, Reyes Raj Madhusudhan 31, Arnav Ravindra Dere 31 n.o., Pradhaan U. Poojary 3/51).

Bangalore Blues thrashes DYES (Ballari)

Bangalore Blues thrashed DYES (Ballari) 12-0 in the CCCA Chairos Bheemaiah Hockey 5's tournament.

In another match, SWR (Hubbali) beat Quint Sports Life 7-1.

South India Derby Stakes on Pongal day

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The HPSL South India Derby Stakes, a Grade 1 race for 4-year-old horses to be run over a distance of 2400m at 4:30 p.m. on January 14, will be the highlight of the Pongal race meeting to be held at the Madras Race Club on January 13 and 14. The race, which has nine horses in the fray, including two from Hyderabad and four from Bengaluru, carries a prize-money of ₹1.42 crore, of which the winner will take home ₹86,14,398, according to a MRC press release on Saturday.

Other important races in the 14-race card, split equally across the two days, include the Dashmesh Stud Million, Nanoli Stud Fillies and Mares Championship, and Madras Race Club Commemoration Cup (all on Jan. 13) and the Pongal Million, Dr. M.A.M. Ramasamy Memorial, and Usha Stud Million (scheduled for Jan. 14).

The MRC is adding ₹5 lakh to the net Jackpot pool on January 14.

HPSL's Prudhvi Raju with the South India Derby Stakes trophy.

Pacific Heights may score an encore in feature event

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old filly Pacific Heights, who won well in her last start, may score an encore in the Deccan Bookmakers Welfare Association Darley Arabian Million (Gr. 3), the feature event of Sunday's (Jan. 12) races.

1 RED SATIN PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 12. 25 p.m.: 1. Inderdhanush (10) Deepak 62, 2. Fashion Icon (1) Gaurav 59.5, 3. Genie (2) Nakhat 56.5, 4. The Pious (6) Akshay K 56, 5. Dhanadeepa (3) Mukesh 54.5, 6. Elegant Girl (9) Rafique Sk. 53, 7. Wandring Warrior (5) Abhay Singh 53, 8. Club Queen (4) Md. Ekram 52.5, 9. Desert Sultan (8) B.R. Kumar 52.5 and 10. Splendour On Grass (7) Ajay K 52.5.

1. THE PIOUS, 2. CLUB QUEEN, 3. DHANADEEPA

2 COMMON LAND PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 12. 55: 1. Dyanoosh (2) Shivansh 60, 2. Malibu (6) Saqlain 60, 3. Golden Gazelle (1) H.M. Akshay 57.5, 4. Blissful (4) R.S. Jodha 57, 5. Rival (7) P. Sai K 55.5, 6. Shadow Fax (9) Kuldeep Sr. 55, 7. Mr. Perfect (3) Mohit 54, 8. Deccan Spirit (8) B. Nikhil 53.5, 9. Happy Soul (10) Kuldeep Jr. 52.5 and 10. Hurricane Wave (5) Afroz K 50.5.

1. DECCAN SPIRIT, 2. SHADOW FAX, 3. RIVAL

3 CHALLURI SUSHEELA & NARASIMHA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only – 1.25: 1. La Quinta (11) Md. Ekram 56, 2. N R I Blaze (10) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 3. Certainty (8) Gaurav 54.5, 4. Global Fashion (6) Nakhat 54.5, 5. Infinia (2) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 6. Konaseema (9) Abhay Singh 54.5, 7. Miss Smiley Angel (4) H.M. Akshay 54.5, 8. Nijinsky Star (7) Saqlain 54.5, 9. Pride Aside (3) G. Naresh 54.5, 10. Screenshot (5) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 11. Whistledown (1) Akshay K 54.5.

1. N R I BLAZE, 2. NIJINSKY STAR, 3. WHISTLEDOWN

4 RED SATIN PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.55: 1. Star Cruise (2) Kuldeep Sr. 61, 2. Normui (1) Mukesh 59.5, 3. First Lady (7) Santosh Raj 57, 4. Sargent (5) H.M. Akshay 57, 5. Grey Sky (9) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 6. Cherish The Lady (10) P. Sai K 53, 7. Pancho (8) B. Nikhil 53, 8. Politics (4) Md. Ismail 53, 9. Politics (6) Gaurav 52.5 and 10. Most Beautiful (3) Ajay K 52.

1. SARGENT, 2. FIRST LADY, 3. STAR CRUISE

5 B. VIJAY REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m) Maiden, 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2. 30: 1. See My Attitude (8) Afroz K 61, 2. Bellingham (1) B.R. Kumar 58, 3. Always Special (12) Mukesh 55, 4. Golden Unicorn (9) Kuldeep Sr. 54, 5. Hoping High (2) Mohit 54, 6. Peppi (4) Ashad Asbar 54, 7. N R I Star (6) Santosh Raj 53.5, 8. Oskars Officer (5) H.M. Akshay 52.5, 9. Secret Option (7) Abhay 52, 10. Tupac (3) Surya Prakash 52, 11. Hoping Wind (11) Kuldeep Jr. 51 and 12. Arnaz (10) P. Sai K 50.

1. ALWAYS SPECIAL, 2. BELLINGHAM, 3. SEE MY ATTITUDE

6 COMMON LAND PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.05: 1. Amyra (9) Shivansh 60, 2. Calista Girl (4) Gaurav 59, 3. Kenaf (3) Saqlain 59, 4. Darling's Boy (11) Akshay K 57.5, 5. Sangreal (10) P. Sai K 56.5, 6. Sopranos (6) P. Ajeeth K 55.5, 7. Mix The Magic (1) Mukesh 54, 8. Mark My Day (7) Nakhat 53.5, 9. Park Lane (5) Md. Ismail 53.5, 10. Sucker Punch (8) G. Naresh 52 and 11. Top In Class (2) Kuldeep Sr. 52.

1. SOPRANOS, 2. PARK LANE, 3. DARLING'S BOY

7 1EME CENTRE ROLLING TROPHY (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.40: 1. Uchchaihshravas (11) Neeraj 60.5, 2. Espionage (2) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 3. Juramento (3) Shivansh 58.5, 4. Kings Best (9) Gaurav 58.5, 5. Star Forever (7) G. Naresh 55, 6. Sun Dancer (14) Saqlain 54.5, 7. Colt Pistol (13) Ajay K 54, 8. Assured Success (10) Rafique Sk. 52, 9. Miracle Mary (8) Md. Ismail 52, 10. Emperors Charm (6) Akshay K 51.5, 11. Miss Marvellous (12) P. Ajeeth K 51.5, 12. Windsor (4) Afroz K 51.5, 13. Anemoi (1) Santosh Raj 51 and 14. Gloria (5) Surya Prakash 50.

1. UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS, 2. ESPIONAGE, 3. EMPERORS CHARM

8 DECCAN BOOKMAKERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION DARLEY ARABIAN MILLION (GR. 3) (1,200m), 3-y-o only – 4.15: 1. Cherie Chevalier (1) P. Sai K 56, 2. Home Run (3) Akshay K 56, 3. Racing Ruler (4) G. Naresh 56, 4. Smart Operator (5) Mukesh 56 and 5. Pacific Heights (2) Saqlain 54.5.

1. PACIFIC HEIGHTS, 2. CHERIE CHEVALIER

9 RED SATIN PLATE (Div. III) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.50: 1. Shoolin (6) B. Nikhil 60.5, 2. That's My Mission (1) Saqlain 59.5, 3. Dali's Champion (10) P. Ajeeth K 56.5, 4. Golden Inzio (9) P. Sai K 55, 5. Self Image (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Country's Maximus (5) H.M. Akshay 53.5, 7. Exponent (2) Md. Ekram 53, 8. Petra Act (7) Mukesh 53, 9. Niloufer The Great (8) G. Naresh 52.5 and 10. Talking Stick (3) Ajay K 50.

1. GOLDEN INZIO, 2. DALI'S CHAMPION, 3. THAT'S MY MISSION

Day's Best: **UCHCHAIHSHRAVAS**

Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Mini Jackpot: (I) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9.

Treble: (I) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7,8 & 9.

Tanala: All races.